

July 1, 2008

Mr. David A. Baxter
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: GENERIC LETTER 2004-02 SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE - OCONEE
NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS. MC4698, MC4699, AND
MC4700)

Dear Mr. Baxter:

By letter dated February 29, 2008, you submitted a supplemental response to Generic Letter 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee). We have reviewed your submittal with a process that involved a detailed review by a team of 10 subject matter experts, with focus on the review areas described in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) "Content Guide for Generic Letter 2004-02 Supplemental Responses" (ML073110389). The review process also included a separate "holistic" review of your submittal informed by inputs from the subject matter experts that focused on whether you have demonstrated overall that your corrective actions for Generic Letter 2004-02 are adequate.

We have no further questions at this time regarding your completion of corrective actions for Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02. In large part this conclusion is based on the very low potential debris loading at Oconee, as discussed in your supplemental response.

As you may be aware, we have not yet issued a final safety evaluation (SE) on WCAP 16793 NP, "Evaluation of Long-Term Cooling Considering Particulate, Fibrous, and Chemical Debris in the Recirculating Fluid." We believe that the likelihood of unacceptable in-vessel debris impact for Oconee is very low because of the low debris loading. However, because your GL 2004-02 response refers to and relies on this topical report, we plan to defer issuance of a closure letter to Oconee for the GL until uncertainties regarding the remaining issues with WCAP-16793 are reduced. You may wait for the issue to be resolved through the WCAP process or may demonstrate that in-vessel downstream effects issues are resolved for Oconee by demonstrating without reference to WCAP-16793 or the NRC staff SE that in-vessel downstream effects have been addressed at Oconee. We are developing a Regulatory Issue Summary to inform the industry of our expectations and plans regarding resolution of this remaining aspect of GSI-191.

D. Baxter

- 2 -

In addition, you have committed to certain corrective actions that have not yet been performed. We expect that you will report completion of these remaining items to the NRC after the last one has been implemented.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1419.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

cc: See next page

D. Baxter

- 2 -

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Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

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