

May 23, 2000

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-00-0081

TITLE: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 - RENEWAL OF FULL-POWER OPERATING LICENSE

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) approved the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum ([SRM](#)) of May 23, 2000.

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Commission.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
OGC
EDO
PDR

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-00-0081

RECORDED VOTES

| | APRVD | DISAPRVD | ABSTAIN | NOT PARTICIP | COMMENTS | DATE |
|------------------|-------|----------|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| CHRM. MESERVE | X | | | | X | 5/16/00 |
| COMR. DICUS | X | | | | X | 5/7/00 |
| COMR. DIAZ | X | | | | X | 5/10/00 |
| COMR. McGAFFIGAN | X | | | | X | 5/4/00 |
| COMR. MERRIFIELD | X | | | | X | 5/3/00 |

COMMENT RESOLUTION

In their vote sheets, all Commissioners approved the staff's recommendation and provided some additional comments. Subsequently, the comments of the Commission were incorporated into the guidance to staff as reflected in the SRM issued on May 23, 2000.

Commissioner Comments on SECY-00-0081

Chairman Meserve

- I approve the staff's recommendation to authorize the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to renew the

licenses for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3, upon making the appropriate findings on safety and environmental matters. I join my fellow Commissioners in commending the staff for the continued high quality of the license renewal reviews.

- I acknowledge that the staff will make any necessary conforming changes to the renewed licenses as a result of pending licensing actions.

Commissioner Dicus

I commend the staff for a timely, thorough, and safety-focused review of the renewal application for Oconee Nuclear Station. You have shown the ability to handle challenging technical issues while implementing an effective and efficient process at the same time.

Commissioner Diaz

I approve the staff's recommendation that the Commission authorize the Director of NRR to renew the operating licenses for the Oconee Nuclear station, Units 1, 2, and 3, upon making the appropriate findings on safety and environmental matters. I also acknowledge that the staff will make any necessary conforming changes to the renewed licenses as a result of any pending licensing actions while the Commission considers the staff's recommendations. The staff is to be commended for its exacting and timely review of the Oconee license renewal application. The results of the review also reflect well on the ability of Duke Energy Corporation, and its workforce, to meet the requirements for safe extension of the life of these units.

Commissioner McGaffigan

I commend the staff and the ACRS for conducting a timely, thorough, and professional review of the Oconee license renewal application. As was the case in the staff's review of Calvert Cliffs license renewal application, I note that there were numerous opportunities for substantial public involvement in the process.

On the basis of my review of the staff's safety evaluation report (SER) and environmental impact statement (EIS), as well as the May 2 Commission briefing on the Oconee license renewal review, I hereby:

Approve authorizing the Director of NRR to renew the operating licenses for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, upon making the appropriate findings on safety and environmental matters.

Note that the staff will make any necessary conforming changes to the renewed licenses as a result of any pending licensing actions while the Commission is considering the staff's recommendations.

Commissioner Merrifield

I commend the staff for the outstanding job they did in their review of the Oconee license renewal application. The staff should be proud of the way in which they managed the process, involved stakeholders, and conducted a thorough, timely, and disciplined review.

After reviewing the staff's safety evaluation report and environmental impact statement, and participating in the staff's briefing of the Commission on May 2, 2000, I approve the staff's recommendations in [SECY-00-0081](#). More specifically:

- I approve authorizing the Director of NRR to renew the operating licenses for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 upon making the appropriate findings on safety and environmental matters.
- I acknowledge that the staff will make any necessary conforming changes to the renewed licenses as a result of any pending licensing actions while the Commission is considering the staff's recommendations.

As discussed during the May 2, 2000 Commission meeting, the staff should promptly share with our licensees and other stakeholders the lessons learned from the Oconee review, particularly those associated with such issues as the scope of transmission line impacts, the combined generation alternative, and the effective presentation of information in license renewal applications. A clear understanding of these lessons is not only important to future renewal applicants, but should also serve to improve the efficiency of the NRC's review process.

As I stated in my comments associated with [SECY-99-148](#) and [SECY-00-0010](#), it is imperative that the staff have the resources necessary to not only review the renewal applications that are in-house, but to also develop the regulatory infrastructure (SRP, GALL, inspection procedures...) necessary for the effective and even more timely review of future applications. The staff should promptly notify the Commission should it find that resources are insufficient to effectively carry out its license renewal responsibilities. Also, during the upcoming budget cycle, the staff should clearly present to the Commission its planning assumptions associated with license renewal, as well as the resources specifically allocated to the development of the regulatory infrastructure.