



W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President

Duke Power
Oconee Nuclear Site
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672
(864) 885-3107 OFFICE
(864) 885-3564 FAX

November 28, 2000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Subject: Duke Energy Corporation
Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, and -287
Generic Letter 96-04, Boraflex Degradation in Spent Fuel Storage Racks

By letter dated December 31, 1999, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke), indicated a Technical Specification (TS) change request would be submitted to the NRC by April 30, 2000, in response to the subject Generic Letter. The Generic Letter requested affected licensees to provide an assessment of the physical condition of Boraflex used in spent fuel racks. Duke's December 31, 1999, letter also provided the methodology and status of analyses needed to support the Generic Letter 96-04 response. Duke's April 19, 2000, letter identified non-conservatisms in the methodology used to define the revised spent fuel assembly storage limitations. As a consequence, the methodology and analyses that support the Generic Letter 96-04 response must be revised. The April 19, 2000, letter anticipated completion of the Generic Letter 96-04 response by November 30, 2000.

Due to the magnitude of the revisions to the methodology and analyses, additional time is required to complete the analysis and the Generic Letter 96-04 response. As described in earlier letters, interim controls have been implemented to ensure an adequate reactivity margin is maintained while the analysis is being revised. The Duke corrective action program documents the non-conservatisms and interim corrective actions needed to maintain an adequate margin of safety through December 15, 2001. The Generic Letter 96-04 response will be submitted to the NRC by December 28, 2000.

Please direct any questions to Robert Douglas at (864) 885-3073.

Very truly yours,



W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Site Vice President

A068

cc: L. A. Reyes
M. C. Shannon
D. E. LaBarge
V. R. Autry