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February 08, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, 50-287
Commitment Change Regarding CCW Pump Flange Seals

The purpose of this letter is to change a commitment regarding testing of the Condenser Circulating Water (CCW) pump flange seals. On February 24, 1995, Duke and the NRC met to discuss outstanding issues associated with the Service Water Systems Operational Performance Inspection (SWSOPI). During this meeting, Duke Energy made several commitments, which were documented in a letter dated March 9, 1995, from J. W. Hampton to the NRC. These commitments were also summarized by the NRC in a letter dated April 5, 1995, by Albert F. Gibson. Per the March 9, 1995, letter, the commitment was stated as follows:

"A safety-related procedure will be developed and implemented for the CCW pump flange seals prior to the lake level decreasing below 792 feet (PIP 94-0252). The procedure will be performed on a six month frequency if the lake level remains below 792 feet."

Since this commitment was made in 1995, Keowee lake level has remained above the flange seals. Selected License Commitments Manual Section 16.9.7 currently limits the lake level to 793 feet. In anticipation of changes that will allow lower lake levels, Oconee performed tests of the pump flange seals for all twelve CCW pumps in September - October, 2000. All twelve pumps were found to have zero leakage. These tests met the first part of the commitment to test the seals prior to lake level decreasing below 792 feet. However, based on the actual test results and the length of service of the tested seals, Oconee plans to change the six-month test frequency to once every seven

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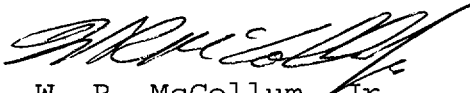
February 08, 2001

Page 2

years. This is acceptable because the median time in service of the tested seals was eight years. Two of the twelve seals had been in service for greater than ten years. The equipment history and test results support the new test frequency of seven years. In the future, Oconee will adjust the test frequency, as necessary, based on operating experience to ensure the continued operability of the Emergency CCW siphon headers.

Please address any questions to Judy E Smith at 864-885-4309.

Very truly yours,



W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Site Vice President

NRC Document Control Desk

February 08, 2001

Page 3

cc: Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II

Mr. D. E. LaBarge, Project Manager
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