



Duke Energy

Oconee Nuclear Station
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W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President

March 6, 2001

Mr. Michael E. Ernstes, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth St., S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, 50-287
Operator Regualification Examinations

The purpose of this letter is to request a one-time exemption from completing the regualification operating examinations within the 24-month requirement of 10 CFR 55.59. This request is made in consideration of Unit 2's refueling outage, which is scheduled from April 19 to May 26, 2001.

Oconee's last 24 month cycle for operating exams and biennial written exams was completed June 4, 1999. The last annual operating exam was completed June 30, 2000.

For the upcoming exams, Duke intends for the regualifying personnel to complete the written exam between April 27 and June 1, 2001, which meets the 24-month requirement. However, Duke proposes to schedule the operating examinations to begin on June 4, 2001, after the outage, and be complete by July 13, 2001.

Following the completion of this year's examination, the 24-month cycle will be reset to start June 4, 2001, (the original clock date) and to end on March 8, 2003. This will allow completion of the regualification cycle within the 24-month requirement as well as support both spring and fall outages. It is intended that future regualification cycles will run from March to March.

Not in ADAMS
AS of 03/19/01
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Please address any questions to Paul Stovall, Manager of Operator Training, at 864-885-3307.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. R. McCollum, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Site Vice President

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

March 6, 2001

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

Mr. D. E. LaBarge, Project Manager
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. M. C. Shannon
Senior Resident Inspector
Oconee Nuclear Site