

FEBRUARY 02 1982

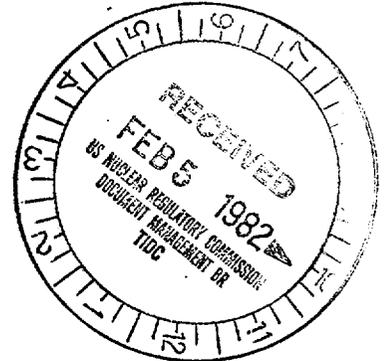
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Dockets Nos. 50-269, 50-270
and 50-287

Mr. William O. Parker, Jr.
Vice President - Steam Production
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 33189
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242



Dear Mr. Parker:

By letter dated March 18, 1981, Duke Power Company responded to a February 20, 1981, request for verification of compliance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50, Part 50.48 and Appendix R, at the Oconee Nuclear Station. As stated in our April 14, 1981 letter, the exemption to Appendix R, requested in your above-mentioned letter, for the east and west penetration rooms is not necessary but an exemption for the Control Rooms would be needed. Your responded to this letter by request for exemption for the Oconee Nuclear Station Control Rooms dated April 30, 1981.

We have reviewed your April 30, 1981, request for exemption and have concluded that a sound technical basis for not requiring a fixed fire suppression system in the Control Rooms has been provided. Therefore, we have granted an exemption, enclosed, from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Item III.G.3, stating that a fixed suppression system is not required in the Control Rooms.

Our evaluation of alternative shutdown capabilities in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, is continuing and will be addressed separately.

A copy of the Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

Enclosure: Exemption

cc w/enclosure:

OELD *SLK*
1/27/82

See next page

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|---------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|
| OFFICE | ORB#4:DL | ORB#4:DL | C-ORAB#4:DL | C-ORAB:DL | AD-ORAB:DL | B-ORAB:DL | D:NR |
| SURNAME | Ringram | PWagner/Cab | JSt... | Twambach | TWambach | Deisenhut | HDenton |
| DATE | 1/12/82 | 1/12/82 | 1/15/82 | 1/13/82 | 1/18/82 | 1/29/82 | 2/1/82 |

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 2, 1982

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

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Vice President - Steam Production
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

Enclosure: Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Duke Power Company

cc w/enclosure(s):

Mr. William L. Porter
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 33189
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Office of Intergovernmental Relations
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

Oconee County Library
501 West Southbroad Street
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Honorable James M. Phinney
County Supervisor of Oconee County
Walhalla, South Carolina 29621

Regional Radiation Representative
EPA Region IV
345 Courtland Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

William T. Orders
Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 2, Box 610
Seneca, South Carolina 29678

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Generation Division
Suite 220, 7910 Woodmont Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Manager, LIS
NUS Corporation
2536 Countryside Boulevard
Clearwater, Florida 33515

J. Michael McGarry, III, Esq.
DeBevoise & Liberman
1200 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

DUKE POWER COMPANY

(Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1,
2 and 3)Dockets Nos. 50-269, 50-270
and 50-287EXEMPTION

I.

The Duke Power Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47 and DPR-55 which authorize operation of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3 (Oconee or the facilities). These licenses provide, among other things, that they are subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facilities are pressurized water reactors located at the licensee's site in Oconee County, South Carolina.

II.

Section III.G.3 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 requires that a fixed fire suppression system be installed in an area, room or zone under consideration for alternative safe shutdown modifications. In the case of Oconee, under this provision a fixed fire suppression system would be required in the control room.

The licensee indicated in its April 30, 1981 letter, that the fire protection features currently installed in the control room provide adequate fire fighting capability in the control room and constitute an adequate fixed fire suppression system for the area. However, inasmuch as the term "fixed suppression" has been used to connote sprinklers or gas suppression

systems, the licensee has requested an exemption from the requirements of III.G.3 to provide a fixed suppression system.

The licensee's exemption request is based on the following:

- An alternate shutdown system is being provided remote from the control room. This alternate shutdown system provides remote control capabilities for those systems needed to maintain hot shutdown.
- A fire detection system has been installed in the control room.
- A hose station and fire extinguishers have been installed inside the control room.

The modifications which the licensee's exemption request is based on are required by Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. Therefore, the above modifications alone do not justify an exemption from the requirement to install a fixed fire suppression system in areas where redundant divisions are located. However, the control room is a unique area of the plant that is required to be continually occupied by the operators. In the event of a fire, manual fire suppression would be effective and prompt. Because the operators provide a continuous fire watch in the control room, a fixed suppression system is not necessary to achieve adequate fire protection in the control room. This is similar to the concept reflected in the NRC staff's acceptance, on a short-term basis, of a continuous fire watch as an alternative to fixed suppression systems when such systems become unavailable per the Oconee Technical Specifications.

Based on our evaluation, we conclude that the licensee's fire protection features for the control room meet the objectives of Section III.G, "Fire Protection of Safe Shutdown Capability", of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50, and,

therefore, the licensee's request to be exempted from the requirement to provide a fixed fire suppression system in the control room should be granted.

III.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, an exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, is otherwise in the public interest, and is hereby granted.

The Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland,
this 2nd day of February 1982.