

NOV 7 1984

DMB 016

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

Mr. Hal B. Tucker
Vice President - Steam Production
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 33189
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Dear Mr. Tucker:

The Commission has issued the enclosed exemption to certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) in response to your letter of December 2, 1983. The exemption allows a common start date for inservice inspection and testing for all three Oconee units and for that common start date to be at other than 120 months from commercial operation of any one unit.

A copy of the exemption is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:"

Helen Nicolaras, Project Manager
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

November 7, 1984

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DOCKET No. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docketing and Service Branch
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is enclosed for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies (6) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- ☐ Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- ☐ Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s): Time for Submission of Views on Antitrust Matters.
- ☐ Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License.
- ☐ Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- ☐ Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- ☐ Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- ☐ Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- ☐ Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- ☐ Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- ☐ Order.
- ☒ Exemption.
- ☐ Notice of Granting of Relief.
- ☐ Other: _____

Division of Licensing, ORB#4
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

OFFICE	ORB#4:DL						
SURNAME	RIngram;cf						
DATE	11/13/84						

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Duke Power Company

cc w/enclosure(s):

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

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

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of
 DUKE POWER COMPANY
 (Oconee Nuclear Station,
 Units 1, 2 and 3)

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

EXEMPTION

I.

The Duke Power Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 which authorize the operation of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3 (the facilities), at reactor power levels not in excess of 2568 megawatts thermal (rated power) for each unit. The facilities are Babcock and Wilcox designed pressurized water reactors located at the licensee's site in Oconee County, South Carolina.

The licenses are subject to all rules, regulations and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

II.

10 CFR Part 50.55a requires that piping and components of boiling and pressurized water reactor plants be examined and pressure tested to the requirements of Section XI of the ASME Code and that the examinations and tests be completed during each of four (4) ten-year intervals. These ten-year intervals are calculated from the start date of commercial operation of the facility.

10 CFR Part 50.55a(g)(4) requires that licensees update their pump and valve inservice inspection (ISI) and testing (IST) programs to a newer edition of Section XI of the Code each ten years. Since the regulations require these updates based on the 10-year anniversary of facility commercial operation, multi-unit sites often find that each unit has an ISI and IST program structured for a slightly different edition of the Code.

III.

By letter dated December 2, 1983, the licensee requested an exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.55a(g)(4) which would allow the use of a common start date for ISI and IST for all three Oconee units and for that date to be at other than 120 months from the date of commercial operation of any one unit.

According to the regulations, the second ten-year interval for the ISI program began or should begin on July 16, 1983, September 10, 1984, and December 17, 1985, for Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The licensee has requested a common start date of April 1, 1984. The Commission's staff has reviewed this request and has determined that a common ISI start date for the three units has inherent administrative, technical, and cost saving advantages, both for the licensee and the Commission. The staff has concluded that:

1. The same Code edition and addenda, by regulation, can be used as the basis for the ISI program for all three units;
2. Since the units are similar in design, only one ISI program would have to be written and submitted by the licensee;
3. The Commission's staff would have to review and approve only one submittal instead of three; and

4. The change of the ISI start date to April 1, 1984, will not affect the completion of examination and pressure test requirements for the inspection intervals.

The licensee has requested a common IST start date of July 1, 1982. If this exemption request were not granted, Oconee Unit 1 would be required to have an IST program structured to the 1980 Edition of the Code with Addenda through Winter 1980, and Oconee Units 2 and 3 would be required to have their IST programs structured to the 1980 Edition of the Code with Addenda through Winter 1981. Therefore, there would be very little change for the current 10-year update of the IST program.

Since the selected start date of July 1982 is basically one year prior to that which would normally be required by the regulations for Oconee Unit 1, future IST program updates for all three Oconee units will constitute a voluntary update to a newer Code sooner than would normally be required. For Oconee Units 2 and 3, the IST program will be in accordance with a slightly older edition of the Code than would have been required by the regulations, but the Commission's staff concludes that the use of a single IST program for all three Oconee Units is more beneficial in terms of net overall plant safety.

Therefore, the staff concludes that the exemption request should be granted. If a common start date were not established, the ISI and IST programs at Oconee would be accomplished, for some period of time, to two different ASME Codes. Although administratively possible, this situation could contribute to increased personnel errors in the performance of inspection and testing requirements to two different versions of the Code. This can create a substantial and additional administrative workload for what can be described as only nominal technical differences in the inspection and testing requirements.

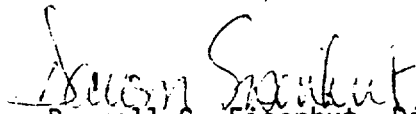
IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), the exemption requested by the licensee's letter of December 2, 1983, is authorized by law, and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. The Commission hereby grants to the licensee an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of the exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (49 FR 43822).

This Exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Darrell G. Eisenhower, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 7th day of November 1984