

Docket Nos.: 50-269
50-270
50-287

September 12, 1988

Mr. H. B. Tucker, Vice President
Nuclear Production Department
Duke Power Company
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Dear Mr. Tucker:

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (TACS 68351/68352/68353)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your May 16, 1988, request for amendments to the operating licenses for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The proposed amendments would support operations of Unit 3, Cycle 11, at full rated power.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,



Helen N. Pastis, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

Enclosure:
F. R. Notice

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Mr. H. B. Tucker
Duke Power Company

Oconee Nuclear Station
Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3

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Honorable James M. Phinney
County Supervisor of Oconee County
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONDUKE POWER COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-269, 50-270 AND 50-287ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 issued to Duke Power Company, (the licensee) for operation of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3, located in Oconee County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specifications (TS) to support operation of Oconee Unit 3, Cycle 11 at full rated power and to include other revisions. To support the reload TS revisions, Duke submitted the report, "Oconee Unit 3 Cycle 11, Reload Report," DPC-RD-2011, May 1988. These amendments would revise the following 4 areas: (1) Update the operational power imbalance envelope. These envelopes would be revised for all three units; (2) Increase the minimum boron concentration in the borated water storage tank (BWST) from 1835 to 1950 parts per million; (3) Increase the minimum volume of the concentrated boric acid storage tank (CBAST) from 1020 to 1100 cubic feet. The increase in volume would ensure that the CBAST can borate the reactor coolant system to 1% delta k/k subcritical with the following assumptions: cold conditions with the maximum worth stuck rod, and no credit for xenon at the most limiting time in the core life; and (4) Revise other areas of the TS that are administrative in nature.

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The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendments dated May 16, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed change to the TS is needed in order to support operation of Oconee Unit 3 at full rated power during Cycle 11. Updating of the operational power imbalance envelope provides appropriate operating flexibility for each of the three Oconee units.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed revisions to the TS provide safe operation with the proposed changes in the fuel load and for operation with increased core flow and revised core power imbalance limits. The TS changes ensure that the capability to maintain adequate shutdown margins during operation, refueling, or in the event of accidents is preserved. The proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of any accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on July 29, 1988 (53 FR 28735). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendments. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Oconee Nuclear Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendments.

Based upon this environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for the amendments dated May 16, 1988 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, D.C., and at the Oconee County Library, 501 West South Broad Street, Walhalla, South Carolina 29691.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of September 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

S/
David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects I/II

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