

May 30, 1989

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

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

Dear Mr. Tucker:

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment (TACS 54402/54403/54404/54551/54552/  
54553/64664/64665/64666/68080/68081/68082)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your October 8, 1984, January 6, 1988, and March 15, 1988, requests for amendments to Facility Operating Licenses DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The amendments relate to NUREG-0737 requirements.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

Leonard A. Wiens, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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[OCONEE ENV ASSESSMENT LTR]

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May 30, 1989

DOCKET NO. 50-269, 270, and 287

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rules and Procedures Branch  
Division of Rules and Records  
Office of Administration

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3  
DUKE POWER COMPANY

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 ( 5 ) 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 Exemption.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

Contact: M. O'Brien  
Phone: X21424

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|---------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| OFFICE  | PDII       |  |  |  |  |  |
| SURNAME | M. O'Brien |  |  |  |  |  |
| DATE    | 5/30/89    |  |  |  |  |  |

Mr. H. B. Tucker  
Duke Power Company

Oconee Nuclear Station  
Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3

cc:

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Seneca, South Carolina 29678

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Atlanta, Georgia 30323

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Bureau of Radiological Health  
South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control  
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Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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

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

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

7590-01

DUKE POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-269, 50-270 AND 50-287

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO 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 amendments would add limiting conditions for operation and surveillance requirements to the Oconee Technical Specifications (TSs) in accordance with NRC Generic Letter (GL) 83-37 providing guidance on the scope of TSs for NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements." Specifically, TSs are added for the following TMI action items: (1) Containment High-Range Radiation Monitor (TMI Action Item II.F.1.3), (2) Containment Pressure Monitor (II.F.1.4), (3) Containment Water Level Monitor (II.F.1.5), (4) Containment Hydrogen Monitor (II.F.1.6), (5) Instrumentation for Detection of Inadequate Core Cooling (II.F.2), and (6) Control Room Habitability Requirements (III.D.3.4).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's applications for amendments dated October 8, 1984 and January 6 and March 15, 1988, as supplemented or revised August 27, 1985; January 30, June 27, August 13 and September 19, 1986; January 18, May 13, September 16 and December 29, 1988; and May 17, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The need for TSs for certain post-TMI instrumentation and systems has been established by the Commission in NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements." The Commission noted, in part, that TSs are required to provide assurance that facility operation is maintained within the limits determined acceptable following implementation at each facility. Accordingly, on November 1, 1983 and by GL 83-37, the Commission provided guidance for format and content of TSs for those NUREG-0737 items which were scheduled for implementation after December 31, 1981, and requested licensees to submit applications for amendments using this guidance.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The scope and type of specification requested by GL 83-37, and requested by the licensee include appropriate actions if limiting conditions for operation can not be met. The instrumentation addressed by GL 83-37 is used for post-accident monitoring, including detection of inadequate core cooling and maintaining control room habitability conditions. The actions typically limit the allowed period for operation above hot shutdown and/or require reporting to the NRC if part of the redundant system or actuation logic (e.g., one of two channels) is inoperable and can not be restored within a specified period, and require the plant to be placed in hot shutdown if the required minimum number of channels (e.g., two of two channels) should be inoperable for a specific period. The specification changes also add relevant surveillance and testing requirements for installed equipment to ensure that it is maintained in a reliable condition.

The Oconee control rooms are provided with pressurization and ventilation filtering systems to provide additional protection of the control

room (CR) operators from the effects of accidental release of radioactive effluents and toxic gases in the turbine buildings and the auxiliary buildings enclosing the CRs. Oconee 1 and 2 have a shared CR while Unit 3 has a separate CR. The CR pressurization and filtering system would be manually activated in the event of such a release. Each system is comprised of two separate outside air booster fans with prefilter/HEPA/carbon adsorber filter trains, two redundant control room air handling unit fans, associated ductwork, and a radiation monitor. Once activated, the system maintains a slightly positive pressure in the CR to prevent in-leakage. The proposed changes to the TS would specify limiting conditions for operation and periodic surveillance and testing requirements for the pressurization and filtering system to provide increased assurance of system availability, and hence, a habitable CR after an accident. The Oconee TS does not presently contain such requirements. Thus, the TS change provides for reduction in occupational radiological exposure or exposure to potential in-plant toxic releases. No adverse environmental impacts result from system operation.

The proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of 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.

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 amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation, but would adversely affect safety by permitting extended operation without the needed assurance that post-TMI instrumentation and systems are being maintained so as to be available if needed after an accident.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3, dated March 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff 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 the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

The Notices of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action were published in the Federal Register on April 20, 1988 (53 FR 13037) and June 3, 1988 (53 FR 20394). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following these notices.

For further details with respect to this action, see the requests for the amendments dated October 8, 1984, and January 6 and March 15, 1988, as supplemented or revised August 27, 1985, January 30, June 27, August 13, and September 19, 1986, January 18, May 13, September 16, and December 29, 1988, and May 17, 1989, which are 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 30th day of May 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Lawrence P. Crocker, Acting Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of May 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/S/

Lawrence P. Crocker, Acting Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Based upon the foregoing 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 requests for the amendments dated October 8, 1984, and January 6 and March 15, 1988, as supplemented or revised August 27, 1985, January 30, June 27, August 13, and September 19, 1986, January 18, May 13, September 16, and December 29, 1988, and May 17, 1989, which are 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            day of

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

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