

December 5, 1988

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270
and 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 AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
(TACS 52674/52675/52676)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your November 11, 1983, request for an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Sections III.G.2.a and d. for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

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

Enclosure
As stated

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File	Oconee Reading
NRC PDR	ACRS (10) H-1016
Local PDR	J. Partlow 9-A-2
PDII-3 Reading	E. Jordan MNBB-3302
S. Varga	G. Lainas
D. Matthews	M. Rood
H. Pastis	OGC

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen N. Pastis".

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

Mr. H. B. Tucker
Duke Power Company

Oconee Nuclear Station
Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3

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

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 exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, to the Duke Power Company (Duke/licensee) for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, located at the licensee's site in Oconee County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant exemptions from certain requirements of Appendix R, "Fire Protection Program For Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior To January 1, 1979." Duke has requested five exemptions: four from the requirements of Section III.G.2.a and one from Section III.G.2.d. Section III.G.2.a requires separation of cables and equipment and associated non-safety circuits of redundant trains by a fire barrier having a three-hour rating. Structural steel forming a part of or supporting such fire barriers shall be protected to provide fire resistance equivalent to that required of the barrier. Section III.G.2.d requires separation of cables and equipment and associated non-safety circuits of redundant trains by a horizontal distance of more than twenty feet with no intervening combustibles or fire hazards.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions are needed because of plant specific circumstances as described in the licensee's submittals regarding three-hour fire barriers or

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redundant components separated by distances of less than twenty feet. Duke has demonstrated that equivalent protection is provided by the existing fire barriers for the fire hazards to which they are exposed. Use of the existing fire barriers and fire detection and suppression are the most practical means for meeting the intent of Appendix R, and literal compliance would not significantly enhance fire protection capability.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions, based on the existing physical plant design and fire protection features, will provide a degree of fire protection that is equivalent to that required by Appendix R for the affected areas of the plant such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at these facilities. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor do the proposed exemptions otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with these proposed exemptions.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemptions involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect non-radiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Because the Commission has concluded there are no measurable environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the exemptions would be to require rigid compliance with the applicable portions of Sections III.G.2.a and d of the Appendix R requirements. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result as unjustified costs for the licensee.

Alternative Use of Resources:

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

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed Duke's request that supports the proposed exemptions. The NRC staff did not consult with other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes 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 Duke's letters dated November 11 and October 24, 1983, August 14, 1984, February 28 and September 30, 1985, December 26, 1986, and April 21, 1987. The letters 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 5th day of December 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D B Matthews".

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

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 5th day of December 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:

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