

March 5, 1997

Mr. J. W. Hampton
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, SC 29679

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.16 BASES REVISION - OCONEE NUCLEAR
STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

Dear Mr. Hampton:

By letter dated February 12, 1997, which was supplemented by letter dated February 24, 1997, you informed the staff of a change to the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 Technical Specifications (TS) that only affects the Bases of TS 3.16. The change removes the option of using the Reactor Building Hydrogen Purge System if the Hydrogen Recombiner System becomes inoperable and, therefore, reflects more conservative post-loss-of-coolant accident calculations.

The purpose of this letter is to distribute the attached revised TS page to the appropriate TS manual holders.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

David E. LaBarge, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Bases Change

cc w/encl: See next page

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**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. LaBarge", written over a horizontal line.

David E. LaBarge, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Bases Change

cc w/encl: See next page

Duke Power Company

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3.16.3 Components in the Containment Hydrogen Control Systems' flow path shall be operable on each Oconee unit with the following exceptions.

- a. If the flow path is inoperable it shall be restored to operable status within 7 days.
- b. If an inoperable flow path is not restored to operable status within 7 days, then the affected unit shall be at hot shutdown within the next 12 hours and at cold shutdown within an additional 24 hours.⁽¹⁾

Bases

The Containment Hydrogen Control Systems are required at approximately 7 days following a LOCA to limit hydrogen concentration to 4.0 percent by volume.

The Containment Hydrogen Recombiner System is utilized to maintain the post-accident containment atmosphere hydrogen concentration below its lower flammability limit of 4.0 percent by volume. The Containment Hydrogen Recombiner System includes a portable hydrogen recombiner which will be moved to the affected unit following a LOCA, anchored to its foundation, and connected to piping penetrations. Also included is a portable control panel, which will be locally mounted near the recombiner, anchored to its foundation and connected to its motor control center and the recombiner.

Even though the Reactor Building Hydrogen Purge System (RBHPS) is credited in this specification as an acceptable backup hydrogen control method to the Containment Hydrogen Recombiner System (CHRS), conservatively calculated dose rates around the purge/filter make operation of the system during a design basis accident impractical. For this reason, credit will not be taken for the RBHPS as the backup hydrogen control method.

Reference

FSAR, Section 15.16

(1) A one-time allowable outage time of fourteen (14) days is granted for installation of a modification to provide drainage for moisture which may accumulate in the Containment Hydrogen Recombiner System piping.