

August 14, 1997

Mr. William R. McCollum
Site President, Oconee Site
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, South Carolina 29679

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE OPERATING LICENSES (TAC NOS. M98987, M98988, AND M98989)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request for amendments dated June 12, 1997, that would change the current references to "Duke Power Company" to "Duke Energy Corporation" in the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 Operating Licenses to reflect the licensee's name change. This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

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: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "De 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: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Oconee Nuclear Station
Units 1, 2, and 3

cc:

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Heinz Mueller (5)
Environmental Review Coordinator
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Atlanta, Georgia 30365

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DUKE POWER COMPANY

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

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. 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 action would amend the licenses to reflect the licensee's name change from "Duke Power Company" to "Duke Energy Corporation."

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated June 12, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Duke Power Company changed its name to "Duke Energy Corporation." The facility operating licenses for Oconee indicate the name of the licensee as "Duke Power Company," and therefore need to be amended to substitute the new name of the licensee. The proposed action is purely administrative.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there is no significant environmental impact if the amendments are granted. No changes will be made to the design and licensing bases, or procedures of the three units at the Oconee Nuclear Station. Other than the name change, no other changes will be made to the facility operating licenses.

The change will 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 there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

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 Oconee Nuclear Station.

Agencies and Persons Contacted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on August 12, 1997, the staff consulted with the South Carolina State official, Virgil Autrey of the Bureau of Radiological Health, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed amendments. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed amendments will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendments.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's request for the amendments dated June 12, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC, and at the local public document room located at the Oconee County Library, 501 West South Street, Walhalla, South Carolina.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of August 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation