

October 30, 1996

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

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS - OCONEE NUCLEAR
STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS. M96317, M96318, M96319)

Dear Mr. Hampton:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 218, 218, and 215 to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55, respectively, for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. These amendments are in response to your application dated August 12, 1996, and supplement dated September 10, 1996.

The amendments revise the Technical Specifications associated with the containment leak-rate tests by implementing 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Option B for Type A leak-rate tests.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

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

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 218 to DPR-38
2. Amendment No. 218 to DPR-47
3. Amendment No. 215 to DPR-55
4. Safety Evaluation

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OFFICE	PDII-2/PM	PDII-2/AA	TSB	SCSE	OGC	PDII-2/D
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DATE	10/4/96	10/4/96	10/4/96	10/8/96	10/16/96	10/13/96
COPY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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

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A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. LaBarge", is 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

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cc w/enclosures:
See next page

Mr. J. W. Hampton
Duke Power Company

Oconee Nuclear Station

cc:

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

DUKE POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-269

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 218
License No. DPR-38

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. DPR-38 filed by the Duke Power Company (the licensee) dated August 12, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated September 10, 1996, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

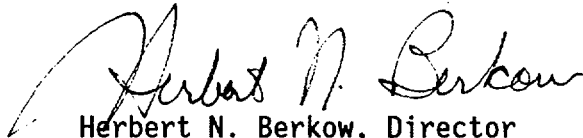
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 3.B of Facility Operating License No. DPR-38 is hereby amended to read as follows:

B. Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 218, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance, and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

Attachment:
Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: October 30, 1996



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

DUKE POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-270

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 218
License No. DPR-47

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. DPR-38 filed by the Duke Power Company (the licensee) dated August 12, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated September 10, 1996, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

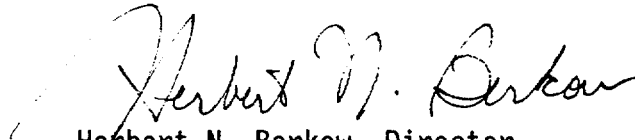
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 3.B of Facility Operating License No. DPR-47 is hereby amended to read as follows:

B. Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No.218 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance, and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

Attachment:
Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: October 30, 1996



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

DUKE POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-287

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 215
License No. DPR-55

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. DPR-38 filed by the Duke Power Company (the licensee) dated August 12, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated September 10, 1996, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

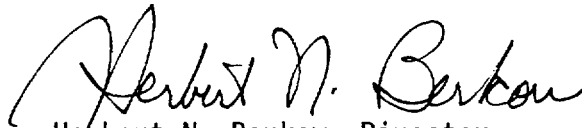
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 3.B of Facility Operating License No. DPR-55 is hereby amended to read as follows:

B. Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 215, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance, and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

Attachment:
Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: October 30, 1996

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 218

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-38

DOCKET NO. 50-269

AND

TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 218

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-47

DOCKET NO. 50-270

AND

TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 215

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-55

DOCKET NO. 50-287

Replace the following pages of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the enclosed pages. The revised pages are identified by Amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

REMOVE

4.4-1
4.4-2
4.4-3
4.4-4
4.4-5

INSERT

4.4-1
4.4-2
4.4-3*
4.4-4
4.4-5

*No change - information only

4.4 REACTOR BUILDING

4.4.1 Containment Leakage Tests

Applicability

Applies to Containment leakage.

Objective

To verify that leakage from the Reactor Building is maintained within allowable limits.

Specification

4.4.1.1 Integrated Leak Rate Tests

The containment leakage rate shall be determined, as required by 10CFR50.54 (o) and 10CFR50, Appendix J, Option B, including any approved exemptions, using the guidelines of Regulatory Guide 1.163, dated September, 1995.

4.4.1.1.1 Acceptance Criteria

The overall acceptance containment leakage rate is determined by the preoperational leakage rate test and shall not exceed L_a , 0.25 weight percent of containment air per 24 hours at P_a , 59 psig. Any leakage in excess of 50% of the total allowed containment leakage shall be demonstrated to be to the penetration room. Containment leakage prior to startup following a Type A test shall not exceed .75 L_a .

4.4.1.2 Local Leak Rate Testing

4.4.1.2.1 Scope of Testing

The local leak rate shall be measured for the containment penetrations in accordance with the criteria specified in Appendix J of 10CFR50, Option A.

4.4.1.2.2 Frequency of Test

Local leak rate tests shall be conducted with gas at a pressure of not less than 59 psig during each reactor shutdown for refueling or other convenient interval but in no case at intervals greater than 24 months.

4.4.1.2.3 Acceptance Criteria

The combined leakage rate from all penetrations and isolation valves shall not exceed 0.125 weight percent of the postulated post-accident containment air mass per 24 hours at 59 psig.

4.4.1.3 Reactor Building Modifications

Any major modification or replacement of components affecting the Reactor Building integrity shall be followed by either an integrated leak rate test or a local leak rate test, as appropriate, and shall meet the acceptance criteria of 4.4.1.1.1 and 4.4.1.2.3, respectively.

4.4.1.4 Isolation Valve Functional Tests

Inservice testing of ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 valves shall be performed in accordance with Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and applicable addenda as required by 10CFR50 Section 50.55a(g)(4) to the extent practicable within the limitations of design, geometry and materials of construction of the components.

4.4.1.5 Containment Air Lock Testing

4.4.1.5.1 Scope of Testing

The Personnel Air Lock and Emergency Air Lock shall be tested as required by the following:

4.4.1.5.2 Frequency of Test

- (a) The Personnel Air Lock and Emergency Air Lock shall be tested semiannually at an internal pressure of not less than 59 psig.
- (b) Air locks opened during periods when containment integrity is not required shall be tested at the end of such periods by a full hatch leak test at not less than 59 psig. If the full hatch test has been performed within the previous 3 days, the leak test can be performed between the double seal of the outer door at not less than 59 psig.
- (c) When containment integrity is required, either a full hatch leak test or a leak test of the outer door double seal will be performed within 3 days of initial opening, and during periods of frequent use, at least once every 3 days. Each leak test will be performed at not less than 59 psig.

4.4.1.5.3 Acceptance Criteria

The acceptance criteria for the air lock leakage test is as stated in Specification 4.4.1.2.3.

Bases

The Reactor Building is designed for an internal pressure of 59 psig and a steam-air mixture temperature of 286°F. This corresponds to a post-accident containment atmosphere mass of 5.1277×10^5 lbm. Prior to initial operation, the containment was strength tested at 115 percent of design pressure and leak rate tested at the design pressure. The containment was also leak tested prior to initial operation at approximately 50 percent of the design pressure. These tests verified that the leak rate from Reactor Building pressurization satisfies the relationships given in the specification.

The NRC approved an amendment to 10CFR50, Appendix J, "Leak Rate Testing of Containment of Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants", to implement a performance-based option for leakage testing of containment.

The performance of a periodic integrated leak rate test during unit life provides a current assessment of potential leakage from the containment, in case of an accident. In order to provide a realistic appraisal of the integrity of the containment under accident conditions, this periodic test is to be performed without preliminary leak detection surveys or leak repairs, and containment isolation valves are to be closed in the normal manner.

Leakage to the penetration room, which is permitted to be up to 50 percent of the total allowable containment leakage, is discharged through high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) and charcoal filters to the unit vent. The filters are conservatively said to be 90 percent efficient for iodine removal.

More frequent testing of various penetrations is specified as these locations are more susceptible to leakage than the Reactor Building liner due to the mechanical closure involved. Testing of these penetrations is performed with air or nitrogen. The basis for specifying a maximum leak rate of 0.125 percent from penetrations and isolation valves is that one-half of the actual integrated leak rate is expected from those sources. Valve operability tests are specified to assure proper closure or opening of the Reactor Building isolation valves to provide for isolation of functioning of Engineered Safety Features systems.

When containment integrity is established, the overall containment leak rate of 0.25 weight percent of containment air at 59 psig will assure that the limits of 10CFR100 will not be exceeded should the maximum hypothetical accident occur.

The containment air locks (i.e., Personnel Hatch and Emergency Hatch) are tested on a more frequent basis than other penetrations. The air locks are utilized during periods of time when containment integrity is required as well as when the reactor is shutdown. Proper verification of door seal integrity is required to ensure containment integrity. Because the door seals are recessed, damage from tools due to air lock entry is improbable; however, a leak test of the outer door seals has been shown to be an acceptable alternative to the full hatch test to ensure air lock integrity.

REFERENCES

- (1) FSAR, Sections 3.8.1.7.4, 6.2.4, and 14.
- (2) NEI 94-01, "Industry Guideline for Implementing Performance-Based Option of 10CFR Part 50, Appendix J", Revision 0; July 26, 1996
- (3) Regulatory Guide 1.163, "Performance-Based Containment Leak-Test Program"; September 1995.
- (4) NUREG 1493, "Performance-Based Containment Leak-Test Program", Revision 0, September 1, 1995.



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 218 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-38
AMENDMENT NO. 218 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-47
AND AMENDMENT NO. 215 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-55
DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
DOCKET NOS. 50-269, 50-270, AND 50-287

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On September 12, 1995, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved issuance of a revision to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, "Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water-Cooled Power Reactors," which was subsequently published in the Federal Register on September 26, 1995, and became effective on October 26, 1995. The NRC added Option B "Performance-Based Requirements" to allow licensees to voluntarily replace the prescriptive testing requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, with testing requirements based on both overall leakage rate performance and the performance of individual components.

By application dated August 12, 1996, Duke Power Company (the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) for Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3. The proposed changes would permit implementation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Option B, in accordance with Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.163, "Performance-Based Containment Leak Test Program," dated September 1995. This reference specifies a method acceptable to the NRC staff for complying with Option B. This option would be applied to the Type A (containment) tests only, not to the Type B and Type C leak-rate tests.

The licensee provided supplemental information by letter dated September 10, 1996, which did not affect the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Compliance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, provides assurance that the primary containment, including those systems and components, which penetrate the primary containment, do not exceed the allowable leakage rate specified in the TS and Bases. The allowable leakage rate is determined so that the leakage assumed in the safety analyses is not exceeded.

On February 4, 1992, the NRC published a notice in the Federal Register (57 FR 4166) that discussed a planned initiative to begin eliminating requirements marginal to safety that impose a significant regulatory burden. Appendix J of

10 CFR Part 50 was considered for this initiative and the staff undertook a study of possible changes to this regulation. The study examined the previous performance history of domestic containments and examined the effect on risk of a revision to the requirements of Appendix J. The results of this study are reported in NUREG-1493, "Performance-Based Leak-Test Program."

Based on the results of this study, the staff developed a performance-based approach to containment leakage rate testing. On September 12, 1995, the NRC approved issuance of this revision to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, which was subsequently published in the Federal Register on September 26, 1995, and became effective on October 26, 1995. The revision added Option B "Performance-Based Requirements" to Appendix J to allow licensees to voluntarily replace the prescriptive testing requirements of Appendix J with testing requirements based on both overall and individual component leakage rate performance.

Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.163, was developed as a method acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing Option B. This RG states that the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) guidance document NEI 94-01, "Industry Guideline for Implementing Performance-Based Option of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J," provides methods acceptable to the NRC staff for complying with Option B with four exceptions, which are described therein.

Option B requires that the RG or other implementation document used by a licensee to develop a performance-based leakage rate testing program must be included, by general reference, in the plant TS. The licensee has referenced RG 1.163 in the Oconee Nuclear Station TS.

RG 1.163 specifies an extension in Type A test frequency to at least one test in 10 years based upon two consecutive successful tests. Type B tests may be extended up to a maximum interval of 10 years based upon completion of two consecutive successful tests and Type C tests may be extended up to 5 years based on two consecutive successful tests. (However, by this amendment application, the licensee has requested changes related to the Type A test program only.)

By letter dated October 20, 1995, NEI proposed TS to implement Option B. After some discussion, the staff and NEI agreed on final TS that were attached to a letter from C. Grimes (NRC) to D. Modeen (NEI) dated November 2, 1995. These TS serve as a model for licensees to develop plant-specific TS in preparing amendment requests to implement Option B.

For a licensee to determine the performance of each component, factors that are indicative of or affect performance, such as an administrative leakage limit, must be established. The administrative limit is selected to be indicative of the potential onset of component degradation. Although these limits are subject to NRC inspection to assure that they are selected in a reasonable manner, they are not TS requirements. Failure to meet an administrative limit requires the licensee to return to the minimum value of the test interval.

Option B requires that the licensee maintain records to show that the criteria for Type A, B, and C tests have been met. In addition, the licensee must

maintain comparisons of the performance of the overall containment system and the individual components to show that the test intervals are adequate. These records are subject to NRC inspection.

3.0 EVALUATION

Option B permits a licensee to choose Type A; or Types B and C; or Types A, B, and C testing to be done on a performance basis. The licensee has elected to perform Type A testing on a performance basis; that is, according to the requirements of Option B. Local leakage rate testing (Types B and C testing) would still be performed under the requirements of Option A. This requires a change to existing TS Sections 4.4.1.1, 4.4.1.2, and 4.4.1.3. The corresponding Bases were also modified.

The TS changes proposed by the licensee are in compliance with the requirements of Option B and consistent with the guidance of RG 1.163, and the generic TS of the November 2, 1995, letter and are, therefore, acceptable to the staff.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the South Carolina official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (61 FR 44356 dated August 28, 1996). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Richard M. Lobel

Dated: October 30, 1996