

September 28, 2001

Mr. Robert Christie
Performance Technology
P.O. Box 51663
Knoxville, Tennessee 37950-1663

Dear Mr. Christie:

I am responding to your letter of August 8, 2001, in which you raised concerns related to the partial approval, dated July 17, 2001, of the Duke Energy Corporation (licensee) request for exemption from the hydrogen control requirements for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee). You stated that the decisions made in response to the licensee's exemption request for Oconee with respect to hydrogen monitoring were not consistent with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's position taken in SECY-00-0198 regarding improving hydrogen control regulations. The attachment to your letter provided additional details to support your assertions regarding hydrogen monitoring.

I understand that you have had extensive discussions of your concerns with Ms. Suzanne Black, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Systems Safety and Analysis, and that you are aware of the NRC staff's positions regarding Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.44, and consideration of special treatment requirements for hydrogen monitoring instrumentation. Your comments will be considered during our review of the licensing actions currently under NRC staff review for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 and Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station, Units 3 and 4, related to hydrogen control, and will also be considered in the rulemaking effort for this issue.

I hope this has been responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-250, 50-251, 50-269, 50-270, 50-287, and 50-289

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 Performance Technology
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*see previous concurrence

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