



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

August 20, 2003

Duke Energy Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. Ronald A. Jones  
Vice President  
Oconee Site  
7800 Rochester Highway  
Seneca, SC 29672

**SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS  
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION - 05000269/2003302, 05000270/2003302 AND  
05000287/2003302**

Dear Mr. Jones:

During a meeting on August 14, 2003, between Mr. J. R. Steely, Initial Training Supervisor, and Ms. Kathleen F. O'Donohue, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing retake examinations at Oconee Nuclear Station. The retake examinations, which consist of the scenario portion of the operating test, are scheduled for October 17, 2003. The on-site preparatory visit is scheduled for the day shift on October 16, 2003.

As agreed during the meeting, your staff will prepare the operating tests in accordance with the guidance in Draft Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." Your staff has also agreed to make all of the copies of the examinations prior to administration. The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, Mr. Steely agreed that your staff will furnish the examination operating test outlines by September 16, 2003. The operating tests will be due by October 3, 2003. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines and examinations before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examination to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number Part 55 (3150-0018), which expires on June 30, 2006. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at [BJS1@NRC.GOV](mailto:BJS1@NRC.GOV); and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0101), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Steely has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Kathleen F. O'Donohue at (404) 562-4555, (Internet E-mail: [KFO@nrc.gov](mailto:KFO@nrc.gov)), George Hopper at (404) 562-4645, (Internet E-mail: [GTH1@NRC.GOV](mailto:GTH1@NRC.GOV)), or myself at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: [MEE@NRC.GOV](mailto:MEE@NRC.GOV)).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Michael E. Ernstes, Chief  
Operator Licensing and  
Human Performance Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, 50-287  
License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

cc: (See page 3)

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