



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

January 5, 2004

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 - 50-269/2004-301, 50-270/2004-301 AND
50-287/2004-301**

Dear Mr. Jones:

In a meeting on December 11, 2003, between Mr. J. R. Steeley, Operation Initial Licensing Training Supervisor, and Mr. George T. Hopper, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Oconee Nuclear Station. The operating test is scheduled for the weeks of June 14, 2004 and June 21, 2004. The written examination is scheduled to be administered on June 25, 2004. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of May 24, 2004.

As agreed during the meeting, your staff will prepare the written examinations and operating tests based on the guidelines 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 examination materials 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, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by April 12, 2004. The written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by April 28, 2004. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines, examinations, and tests 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 examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and 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 first 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 first 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; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), 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 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. Steeley 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 Mr. George Hopper at (404) 562-4645, (Internet E-mail: GTH1@NRC.GOV), or myself at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: MEE@NRC.GOV).

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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

cc: (See page 3)

cc cont'd:

L. E. Nicholson
Compliance Manager (ONS)
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Lisa Vaughn
Legal Department (PB05E)
Duke Energy Corporation
422 South Church Street
P. O. Box 1244
Charlotte, NC 28201-1244

Anne Cottingham
Winston & Strawn LLP
Electronic Mail Distribution

Beverly Hall, Acting Director
Division of Radiation Protection
N. C. Department of Environmental
Health & Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Henry J. Porter, Director
Div. of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
S. C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. Mike Gandy
Division of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
S. C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Supervisor of
Oconee County
415 S. Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691-2145

Lyle Graber, LIS
NUS Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

M. T. Cash, Manager
Regulatory Issues & Affairs
Duke Energy Corporation
526 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28201-0006

Peggy Force
Assistant Attorney General
N. C. Department of Justice
Electronic Mail Distribution

Bentley K. Jones
Training Manager
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672-0752

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L. Olshan, NRR
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