

January 14, 2003

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

SUBJECT: REVISED METHODOLOGY FOR ANALYZING THE EFFECTS OF PIPE  
BREAKS OUTSIDE CONTAINMENT AT OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION,  
UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS. MB3205, MB3206, AND MB3207)

Dear Mr. Jones:

In a letter dated October 15, 2001, supplemented by letters dated July 3, 2002, and August 20, 2003, you requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review and concurrence for use of a revised methodology for analyzing the effects of pipe breaks outside containment at Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. We have reviewed these submittals, and it is our understanding that as the revised methodology is applied, any changes to the existing Oconee licensing basis will be identified and processed in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Sections 50.90 and 50.59 requirements. We agree that use of the proposed assumptions for analyzing the effects of pipe breaks outside containment must be evaluated in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 requirements and addressed accordingly. Therefore, while we do not object to the use of the proposed assumptions, they may require further NRC review and approval pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59 requirements. For example, the proposed assumptions tend to allow a relaxation in the ability to achieve and maintain cold shutdown conditions, and seem to place additional reliance on the standby shutdown facility as well as on non-safety related equipment beyond what has been approved by the NRC. You would have to evaluate and address these types of changes. Therefore, to the extent that the proposed assumptions for analyzing pipe breaks outside containment satisfy the existing Oconee licensing basis and do not relax criteria that were previously applied, we agree that they can be used. However, our concurrence does not constitute NRC review and approval pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59 requirements since you have not identified any changes of this nature for our review.

*/RA/*

Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

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NRR-106

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