

March 30, 2004

Mr. Ronald A. Jones  
Vice President, Oconee Site  
Duke Energy Corporation  
P. O. Box 1439  
Seneca, South Carolina 29679

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3, RE: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2003-01, "POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEBRIS BLOCKAGE ON EMERGENCY SUMP RECIRCULATION AT PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTORS" (TAC NOS. MB9592, MB9593, AND MB9594)

Dear Mr. Jones:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your response dated August 7, 2003, to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin 2003-01, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Sump Recirculation at Pressurized-Water Reactors," dated June 9, 2003. The NRC issued Bulletin 2003-01 to all pressurized-water reactor licensees requesting that they provide a response, within 60 days of the date of Bulletin 2003-01, that contains either the information requested in the following Option 1 or Option 2 stated in Bulletin 2003-01:

- Option 1: State that the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and containment spray system (CSS) recirculation functions have been analyzed with respect to the potentially adverse post-accident debris blockage effects identified in this bulletin, taking into account the recent research findings described in the Discussion section, and are in compliance with all existing applicable regulatory requirements.
- Option 2: Describe any interim compensatory measures that have been implemented or that will be implemented to reduce the risk which may be associated with potentially degraded or nonconforming ECCS and CSS recirculation functions until an evaluation to determine compliance is complete. If any of the interim compensatory measures listed in the Discussion section will not be implemented, provide a justification. Additionally, for any planned interim measures that will not be in place prior to your response to this bulletin, submit an implementation schedule and provide the basis for concluding that their implementation is not practical until a later date.

You provided an Option 2 response. You stated in your response that you will implement, or have implemented, several interim compensatory measures and provided schedules for their implementation. We have considered your Option 2 response for compensatory measures that have been or will be implemented to reduce the interim risk associated with potentially degraded or nonconforming ECCS and CSS recirculation functions until an evaluation to determine compliance is complete.

Ronald A. Jones

-2-

Based on your response, we consider your actions to be complete. Please retain any records of your actions in response to Bulletin 2003-01, as the NRC staff may conduct subsequent inspection activities regarding this issue.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1419 or the lead PM for this issue, Alan B. Wang, at 301-415-1445.

Sincerely,

*/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

cc: See next page

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-2-

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