

March 26, 2004

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

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR
STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS. MC2089, MC2090, AND MC2091)

Dear Mr. Jones:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with the results of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review of the technical specifications (TS) for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The NRC is conducting a comparison of its license authority file and your records to ensure that errors are identified and corrected for all three units. I have completed the comparison of the NRC's license authority file and your records, and I have found no errors in your records that need correcting.

However, I have identified a concern that could cause confusion when amendments are issued, but are not to be implemented until some later time. For example, Amendment Nos. 322, 322, and 323 for Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively, were issued on March 20, 2002. These amendments are to be implemented within 30 days of the completion of digital governor modifications on both Keowee Hydroelectric Units, which will occur several years after the issuance of the amendments. The implementation requirement is delineated in Section 3 of the license, not in the TS themselves. Thus, holders of the TS may not realize that the replacement pages issued with the amendment are not to be implemented until some future time. These holders, at the time they receive the amendments, might insert the replacement pages and remove existing pages that contain TS requirements that still would apply.

You handled another instance of future implementation in a manner we prefer. Your application for amendments dated July 18, 2000, contained proposed revisions to the TS that were not to be implemented until completion of the Automatic Feedwater Isolation System (AFIS) modification. In this case, the implementation requirements were delineated by notes on the TS pages themselves, rather than in the license. Thus, when the amendments were issued on September 26, 2001, (Amendment No. 320, 320, and 320), holders of the TS would be able insert/remove the appropriate pages at that time. Sometime after completion of the AFIS modification, you submitted, by letter dated July 10, 2003, an application for amendments to remove the implementation notes and other TS requirements that were no longer applicable. These amendments were issued on November 5, 2003 (Amendment Nos. 336, 336, and 337).

Therefore, we recommend for future application for amendments in which implementation is to be some time after the issuance of the amendments, that the implementation requirements be provided in the TS themselves, rather than in the license.

Ronald A. Jones

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I have discussed this recommendation with Reene' Gambrell of your staff. If you have any further questions in this matter, please call me at 301 415-1419.

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

Ronald A. Jones

-2-

I have discussed this recommendation with Reene' Gambrell of your staff. If you have any further questions in this matter, please call me at 301 415-1419.

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

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