

November 3, 2004

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

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3, SPRING 2003, END
OF CYCLE 20 STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTION REPORT
(TAC NO. MC0905)

By letters to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated May 29, June 23, and August 28, 2003, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) submitted reports summarizing the steam generator (SG) tube inspections for Oconee Nuclear Station (Oconee), Unit 3, performed during the end of cycle 20 refueling outage in spring 2003. In addition, Duke and NRC representatives participated in a conference call during the SG inspection activities; an NRC letter dated June 30, 2003, provided a summary of this conference call. Based on a review of these reports, the NRC staff requested that Duke provide additional information to support the review and your staff responded by letter dated September 22, 2004.

The NRC staff formally review all SG inspection summary reports submitted by licensees in accordance with the plant's technical specification (TS) requirements. Duke provided the scope, extent, methods, and results of the Oconee, Unit 3 SG tube inspections in the documents referenced above. Duke also described corrective actions (e.g., tube plugging or repair) taken in response to the inspection findings. Based on a review of the information provided, the NRC staff concludes that Duke has provided the information required by the Oconee, Unit 3 TSs. In addition, the NRC staff concludes that there are no technical issues that warrant follow-up action at this time since the inspections appear to be consistent with the objective of detecting potential tube degradation and the inspection results appear to be consistent with industry operating experience at similarly designed and operated units. It should be noted that Oconee, Unit 3 SGs will be replaced during the fall 2004 refueling outage.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-287

cc: See next page

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NAME	LOlshan	DClarke	LLund*	MRoss-Lee
DATE	11/01/04	10/26/04	10/04/04	11/03/04

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Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

cc:

Ms. Lisa F. Vaughn
Duke Energy Corporation
Mail Code - PB05E
422 S. Church St.
P.O. Box 1244
Charlotte, NC 28201-1244

Ms. Anne W. Cottingham, Esq.
Winston and Strawn
1400 L St, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Manager, LIS
NUS Corporation
2650 McCormick Dr., 3rd Floor
Clearwater, FL 34619-1035

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7812B Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

Mr. Henry Porter, Director
Division of Radioactive Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Dept. of Health and Env. Control
2600 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

Mr. Michael A. Schoppman
Framatome ANP
1911 North Ft. Myer Dr.
Suite 705
Rosslyn, VA 22209

Mr. B. G. Davenport
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Oconee Nuclear Site
Duke Energy Corporation
ON03RC
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

Ms. Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
NC Department of Justice
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, NC 27602

Mr. R. L. Gill, Jr.
Manager - Nuclear Regulatory
Issues and Industry Affairs
Duke Energy Corporation
526 S. Church St.
Mail Stop EC05P
Charlotte, NC 28202

Mr. Richard M. Fry, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
NC Dept of Environment, Health, & Natural
Resources
3825 Barrett Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609-7721

Mr. Peter R. Harden, IV
VP-Customer Relations and Sales
Westinghouse Electric Company
6000 Fairview Road
12th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28210

Mr. Henry Barron
Group Vice President, Nuclear Generation
and Chief Nuclear Officer
P.O. Box 1006-EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006