August 28, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Evangelos C Marinos, Chief,
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Michael L. Scott, Chief ***/RA/***
Safety Issue Resolution Branch
Division of Safety Systems
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION: REPORT ON RESULTS OF STAFF AUDIT OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS GENERIC LETTER 2004-02

Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," requested that all pressurized-water reactor licensees (1) evaluate the adequacy of the emergency sump recirculation function with respect to potentially adverse effects associated with post-accident debris, and (2) implement any plant modifications determined to be necessary. Duke Energy, the operator/licensee, has conducted an evaluation of recirculation sump performance for Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Unit Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Duke Energy has installed new sump strainers in each unit.

Consistent with the discussion in the "Reasons for Information Request" Section of GL 2004-02, the NRC staff is using sample audits to help verify that licensee's have resolved the concerns in the generic letter. The staff has conducted an audit of the new sump design and associated analyses and testing for ONS. With the assistance of the DORL Project Manager for ONS, SSIB has forwarded the draft report to Duke Energy. Duke Energy, after consultation with its contractors and vendors for GL 2004-02 corrective actions, has confirmed that there is no proprietary information contained in the audit report.

This memorandum transmits the enclosed audit report to the Division of Operator Reactor Licensing for forwarding to the licensee. The enclosed audit report provides Duke Energy feedback on its GL 2004-02 corrective actions and supporting analyses. Also, when made publically available, this audit report will serve as a vehicle to inform other pressurized water reactor licensees of the staff's technical positions.

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The licensee was very supportive during all phases of the audit. Consideration was given by Duke Energy in providing appropriate office space, supplies, and equipment and facilitating the Engineered Safety Features room tour taken by audit team members. The licensee's support during the preparation, conduct and report writing phases of the audit was helpful to the fullest extent possible.

The enclosed audit report does not reach a conclusion regarding overall adequacy of Duke Energy's GL 2004-02 corrective actions. Duke Energy's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response is expected to respond to the open items in the enclosed audit report and to the GL 2004-02 requests for additional information, as well as provide a comprehensive description of Duke Energy's corrective actions and supporting analyses and evaluations. In early CY 2008 staff consideration of this audit report and Duke Energy's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response will result in a letter to Duke Energy assessing the overall adequacy of the ONS GL 2004-02 corrective actions.

The audit team did not evaluate whether the licensee has identified and submitted all appropriate licensing documents for its GL 2004-02 corrective actions. The licensee's maintenance of its licensing basis is within the scope of the Reactor Oversight Program. The audit team did not evaluate the completion of the licensee's implementation of GL 2004-02 corrective actions that it has committed to take. That is also within the scope of the Reactor Oversight Program under TI 2515/166, "Pressurized Water Reactor Containment Sump Blockage."

Docket Nos: 50-269, 50-270 & 50-287

Enclosure:
Oconee Nuclear Station Corrective Actions for Generic Letter 2004-02 Audit Report

The licensee was very supportive during all phases of the audit. Consideration was given by Duke Energy in providing appropriate office space, supplies, and equipment and facilitating the ECCS pump rooms tour taken by audit team members. The licensee's support during the preparation, conduct and report writing phases of the audit was helpful to the fullest extent possible.

The enclosed audit report does not reach a conclusion regarding overall adequacy of Duke Energy's GL 2004-02 corrective actions. Duke Energy's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response is expected to respond to the open items in the enclosed audit report and to the GL 2004-02 requests for additional information, as well as provide a comprehensive description of Duke Energy's corrective actions and supporting analyses and evaluations. In early CY 2008 staff consideration of this audit report and Duke Energy's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response will result in a letter to Duke Energy assessing the overall adequacy of the ONS GL 2004-02 corrective actions.

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