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January 9, 2008

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: Duke Power Company LLC  
d/b/a Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
Docket Numbers 50-269, 270, and 287  
Technical Specification Bases (TSB) Change

On December 9, 2007 Station Management approved revisions to TSB 3.8.4. This revision will revise the bases of TS 3.8.3, DC Sources-Operating and TS 3.8.4, DC Sources - Shutdown to ensure that battery charges are described consistently.

Attachment 1 contains the new TSB pages, Attachment 2 contains the marked up version of the TSB pages.

If any additional information is needed, please contact Reene Gambrell at 864-885-3364.

Very truly yours,

Dave Baxter, Vice President  
Oconee Nuclear Site

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
January 9, 2008  
Page 2

cc: Mr. L. N. Olshan  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
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Washington, D. C. 20555

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OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
LOEP1	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
LOEP2	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
LOEP3	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
LOEP4	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
LOEP5	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
LOEP6	BASES REVISION	12/06/07
LOEP7	336/336/337	11/5/03
LOEP8	355/357/356	4/2/07
LOEP9	355/357/356	4/2/07
LOEP10	350/352/351	6/1/06
LOEP11	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
LOEP12	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
LOEP13	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
LOEP14	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
LOEP15	338/339/339	06/01/04
LOEP16	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
LOEP17	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
i	320/320/320	9/26/01
ii	336/336/337	11/5/03
iii	355/357/356	4/2/07
iv	351/353/352	6/15/06
B 2.1.1-1	313/313/313	6/21/00
B 2.1.1-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 2.1.1-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 2.1.1-4	313/313/313	6/21/00
B 2.1.2-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 2.1.2-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 2.1.2-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.0-1	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-2	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-3	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-4	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-5	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-6	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-7	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-8	BASES REVISION	10/23/03

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.0-9	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-10	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-11	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-12	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-13	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-14	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.0-15	BASES REVISION	10/23/03
B 3.1.1-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.1-2	BASES REVISION	05/11/99
B 3.1.1-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.1-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.2-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.2-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.2-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.2-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.2-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.3-1	BASES REVISION	06/02/99
B 3.1.3-2	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.1.3-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.3-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.4-1	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-2	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-3	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-4	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-5	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-6	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-7	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-8	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.4-9	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.5-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.5-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.5-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.5-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.6-1	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.6-2	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.6-3	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.6-4	BASES REVISION	12/14/04

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.1.7-1	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.7-2	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.7-3	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.7-4	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.1.8-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.8-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.8-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.8-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.1.8-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.2.1-1	BASES REVISION	10/30/03
B 3.2.1-2	BASES REVISION	10/30/03
B 3.2.1-3	BASES REVISION	10/30/03
B 3.2.1-4	BASES REVISION	10/30/03
B 3.2.1-5	BASES REVISION	10/30/03
B 3.2.1-6	BASES REVISION	10/30/03
B 3.2.1-7	BASES REVISION	10/30/03
B 3.2.2-1	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.2-2	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.2-3	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.2-4	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.2-5	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.2-6	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.2-7	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-1	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-2	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-3	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-4	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-5	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-6	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-7	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-8	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.2.3-9	BASES REVISION	03/13/07
B 3.3.1-1	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-2	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-3	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-4	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-5	BASES REVISION	5/25/06

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.3.1-6	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-7	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-8	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-9	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-10	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-11	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-12	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-13	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-14	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-15	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-16	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-17	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-18	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-19	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-20	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-21	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-22	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-23	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-24	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.1-25	BASES REVISION	5/25/06
B 3.3.2-1	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.3.2-2	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.3.2-3	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.3.3-1	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.3.3-2	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.3.3-3	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.3.3-4	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.3.4-1	341/343/342	11/2/04
B 3.3.4-2	341/343/342	11/2/04
B 3.3.4-3	341/343/342	11/2/04
B 3.3.4-4	341/343/342	11/2/04
B 3.3.4-5	341/343/342	11/2/04
B 3.3.4-6	341/343/342	11/2/04
B 3.3.4-7	341/343/342	11/2/04
B 3.3.5-1	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.5-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.5-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.5-4	300/300/300	12/16/98

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.3.5-5	BASES REVISION	06/02/99
B 3.3.5-6	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.5-7	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.5-8	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.5-9	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.5-10	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.5-11	321/321/322	3/18/02
B 3.3.5-12	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.6-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.6-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.6-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.7-1	BASES REVISION	4/16/03
B 3.3.7-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.7-3	BASES REVISION	4/16/03
B 3.3.7-4	345/347/346	5/19/05
B 3.3.8-1	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-2	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-3	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-4	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-5	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-6	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-7	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-8	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-9	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-10	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-11	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-12	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-13	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-14	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-15	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-16	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-17	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-18	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-19	BASES REVISION	11/27/07
B 3.3.8-20	Deleted 350/352/351	6/1/06
B 3.3.9-1	300/300/300	12/16/98

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.3.9-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.9-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.9-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.10-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.10-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.10-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.10-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.11-1	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.11-2	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.11-3	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.11-4	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.11-5	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.11-6	DELETE BASES REV	4/17/02
B 3.3.12-1	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.12-2	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.12-3	DELETE 320/320/320	9/26/01
B 3.3.13-1	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.13-2	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.13-3	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.13-4	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.14-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.14-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.14-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.14-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.15-1	BASES REVISION	3/11/04
B 3.3.15-2	BASES REVISION	3/11/04
B 3.3.15-3	BASES REVISION	3/11/04
B 3.3.16-1	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.16-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.16-3	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.3.16-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.17-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.17-2	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.3.17-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.18-1	BASES REVISION	12/06/07
B 3.3.18-2	BASES REVISION	12/06/07
B 3.3.18-3	BASES REVISION	12/06/07
B 3.3.18-4	BASES REVISION	12/06/07



OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.3.19-1	BASES REVISION	7/12/01
B 3.3.19-2	BASES REVISION	7/12/01
B 3.3.19-3	BASES REVISION	7/12/01
B 3.3.19-4	BASES REVISION	7/12/01
B 3.3.20-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.20-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.20-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.20-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.21-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.21-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.21-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.22-1	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.3.22-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.23-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.23-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.23-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.23-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.3.24-1	320/320/320	9/26/01
B 3.3.25-1	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.25-2	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.25-3	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.25-4	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.25-5	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.25-6	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.26-1	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.26-2	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.26-3	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.27-1	336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.27-2	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.27-3	Delete,336/336/337	11/5/03
B 3.3.28-1	BASES REVISION	3/19/02
B 3.3.28-2	BASES REVISION	3/19/02
B 3.3.28-3	BASES REVISION	3/19/02
B 3.3.28-4	BASES REVISION	3/19/02
B 3.4.1-1	313/313/313	6/21/00
B 3.4.1-2	309/309/309	1/18/00
B 3.4.1-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.1-4	309/309/309	1/18/00
B 3.4.1-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.2-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.2-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.3-1		4/17/01

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.4.3-2	BASES REVISION	4/17/01
B 3.4.3-3	BASES REVISION	4/17/01
B 3.4.3-4	BASES REVISION	4/17/01
B 3.4.3-5	BASES REVISION	4/17/01
B 3.4.3-6	BASES REVISION	4/17/01
B 3.4.3-7	BASES REVISION	4/17/01
B 3.4.3-8	BASES REVISION	4/17/01
B 3.4.4-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.4-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.4-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.4-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.5-1	BASES REVISION	3/25/04
B 3.4.5-2	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.5-3	BASES REVISION	3/25/04
B 3.4.5-4	BASES REVISION	3/25/04
B 3.4.6-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.6-2	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.6-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.6-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.7-1	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.7-2	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.7-3	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.7-4	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.7-5	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.8-1	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.8-2	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.8-3	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.8-4	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.4.9-1	BASES REVISION	7/25/05
B 3.4.9-2	BASES REVISION	7/25/05
B 3.4.9-3	BASES REVISION	7/25/05
B 3.4.9-4	BASES REVISION	7/25/05
B 3.4.9-5	BASES REVISION	7/25/05
B 3.4.9-6	BASES REVISION	7/25/05
B 3.4.10-1	309/309/309	1/18/00
B 3.4.10-2	309/309/309	1/18/00
B 3.4.10-3	309/309/309	1/18/00
B 3.4.10-4	309/309/309	1/18/00
B 3.4.11-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.11-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.11-3	300/300/300	12/16/98

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.4.11-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.11-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.12-1	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-2	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-3	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-4	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-5	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-6	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-7	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-8	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-9	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-10	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-11	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.12-12	BASES REVISION	12/20/05
B 3.4.13-1	355/357/356	04/02/07
B 3.4.13-2	355/357/356	04/02/07
B 3.4.13-3	355/357/356	04/02/07
B 3.4.13-4	355/357/356	04/02/07
B 3.4.13-5	355/357/356	04/02/07
B 3.4.13-6	355/357/356	04/02/07
B 3.4.14-1	335/335/336	9/29/03
B 3.4.14-2	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.4.14-3	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.4.14-4	335/335/336	9/29/03
B 3.4.14-5	335/335/336	9/29/03
B 3.4.14-6	335/335/336	9/29/03
B 3.4.15-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.15-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.15-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.15-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.15-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.4.16-1	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.16-2	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.16-3	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.16-4	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.16-5	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.16-6	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.4.16-7	355/357/356	4/2/07
B 3.5.1-1	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.5.1-2	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.5.1-3	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.5.1-4	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.5.1-5	BASES REVISION	1/11/05

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.5.1-6	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.5.1-7	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.5.1-8	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.5.2-1	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-2	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-3	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-4	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-5	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-6	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-7	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-8	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-9	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-10	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-11	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-12	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-13	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.2-14	BASES REVISION	3/31/05
B 3.5.3-1	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-2	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-3	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-4	350/352/351	6/1/06
B 3.5.3-5	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-6	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-7	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-8	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-9	340/342/341	9/2/04
B 3.5.3-10	Delete	9/2/04
B 3.5.4-1	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.5.4-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.5.4-3	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.5.4-4	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.5.4-5	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.5.4-6	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.6.1-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.1-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.1-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.1-4	BASES REVISION	1/25/01
B 3.6.1-5	Delete	12/16/98
B 3.6.2-1	BASES REVISION	01/31/00
B 3.6.2-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.2-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.2-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.2-5	300/300/300	12/16/98

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.6.2-6	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.6.2-7	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.6.3-1	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-2	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-3	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-4	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-5	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-6	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-7	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-8	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-9	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.3-10	BASES REVISION	12/18/01
B 3.6.4-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.4-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.6.4-3	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.6.5-1	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-2	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-3	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-4	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-5	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-6	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-7	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-8	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-9	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.6.5-10	BASES REVISION	06/25/07
B 3.7.1-1	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.7.1-2	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.7.1-3	BASES REVISION	1/11/05
B 3.7.2-1	BASES REVISION	10/13/03
B 3.7.2-2	BASES REVISION	10/13/03
B 3.7.2-3	BASES REVISION	10/13/03
B 3.7.2-4	BASES REVISION	10/13/03
B 3.7.2-5	BASES REVISION	10/13/03
B 3.7.3-1	BASES REVISION	1/17/06
B 3.7.3-2	BASES REVISION	1/17/06
B 3.7.3-3	BASES REVISION	1/17/06
B 3.7.3-4	BASES REVISION	1/17/06
B 3.7.4-1	BASES REVISION	4/02/07
B3.7.4-2	BASES REVISION	4/02/07
B3.7.4-3	BASES REVISION	4/02/07
B3.7.4-4	BASES REVISION	4/02/07

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.7.5-1	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.7.5-2	BASES REVISION	03/27/99
B 3.7.5-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.5-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.5-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.5-6	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.5-7	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.5-8	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.6-1	330/330/331	4/30/03
B 3.7.6-2	330/330/331	4/30/03
B 3.7.6-3	330/330/331	4/30/03
B 3.7.7-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.7-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.7-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.7-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.8-1	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.7.8-2	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.7.8-3	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.7.8-4	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.7.8-5	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.7.8-6	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.7.8-7	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.7.9-1	BASES REVISION	12/11/02
B 3.7.9-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.9-3	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.9-4	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.9-5	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.10-1	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.10-2	Deleted 338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.10-3	Deleted 338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.10-4	Deleted 338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.11-1	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
B 3.7.11-2	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
B 3.7.11-3	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
B 3.7.12-1	351/353/352	6/15/06
B 3.7.12-2	351/353/352	6/15/06

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
3.7.12-3	351/353/352	6/15/06
3.7.12-4	351/353/352	6/15/06
3.7.12-5	Deleted 351/353/352	6/15/06
B 3.7.13-1	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.7.13-2	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.7.13-3	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.7.13-4	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.7.13-5	323/323/324	4/22/02
B 3.7.14-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.14-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.14-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.7.15-1	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
B 3.7.15-2	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
B 3.7.15-3	BASES REVISION	10/24/07
B 3.7.16-1	BASES REVISION	4/24/03
B 3.7.16-2	BASES REVISION	4/24/03
B 3.7.16-3	BASES REVISION	4/24/03
B 3.7.16-4	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.16-5	BASES REVISION	4/24/03
B 3.7.16-6	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.16-7	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.7.17-1	BASES REVISION	4/12/06
B 3.7.17-2	BASES REVISION	4/12/06
B 3.7.17-3	BASES REVISION	4/12/06
B 3.7.18-1	351/353/352	6/15/06
B 3.7.18-2	351/353/352	6/15/06
B 3.7.18-3	351/353/352	6/15/06
B 3.7.18-4	351/353/352	6/15/06
B 3.8.1-1	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-2	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-3	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-4	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-5	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-6	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-7	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-8	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-9	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-10	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-11	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-12	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-13	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-14	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-15	BASES REVISION	6/28/07

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.8.1-16	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-17	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-18	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-19	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-20	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-21	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-22	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-23	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-24	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-25	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.1-26	BASES REVISION	6/28/07
B 3.8.2-1	BASES REVISION	3/15/07
B 3.8.2-2	BASES REVISION	3/15/07
B 3.8.2-3	BASES REVISION	3/15/07
B 3.8.2-4	BASES REVISION	3/15/07
B 3.8.2-5	BASES REVISION	3/15/07
B 3.8.2-6	BASES REVISION	3/15/07
B 3.8.2-7	BASES REVISION	3/15/07
B 3.8.3-1	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-2	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-3	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-4	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-5	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-6	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-7	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-8	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-9	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.3-10	BASES REVISION	12/18/07
B 3.8.4-1	338/339/339	12/18/07
B 3.8.4-2	338/339/339	12/18/07
B 3.8.4-3	338/339/339	12/18/07
B 3.8.4-4	300/300/300	12/18/07



OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.8.5-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.5-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.5-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.5-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.5-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.5-6	BASES REVISION	01/31/00
B 3.8.6-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.6-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.6-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.6-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.8.7-1	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.8.7-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.8.7-3	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.8.8-1	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-2	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-3	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-4	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-5	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-6	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-7	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-8	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.8-9	BASES REVISION	12/14/04
B 3.8.9-1	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.8.9-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.8.9-3	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.8.9-4	BASES REVISION	7/03/01
B 3.9.1-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.9.1-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.9.1-3	300/300/300	12/16/98

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.9.2-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.9.2-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.9.2-3	BASES REVISION	06/02/99
B 3.9.2-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.9.3-1	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.9.3-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.9.3-3	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.9.3-4	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.9.3-5	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.9.4-1	BASES REVISION	4/25/02
B 3.9.4-2	BASES REVISION	4/25/02
B 3.9.4-3	BASES REVISION	4/25/02
B 3.9.4-4	BASES REVISION	4/25/02
B 3.9.5-1	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.9.5-2	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.9.5-3	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.9.5-4	BASES REVISION	12/19/01
B 3.9.6-1	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.9.6-2	338/339/339	6/1/04
B 3.9.6-3	338/339/339	6/1/04
B3.9.7-1	309/309/309	1/18/00
B3.9.7-2	309/309/309	1/18/00
B3.9.7-3	309/309/309	1/18/00
B 3.10.1-1	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-2	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-3	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-4	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-5	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-6	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-7	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-8	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-9	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-10	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-11	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-12	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-13	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-14	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-15	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-16	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.1-17	BASES REVISION	01/31/07

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS-BASES REVISED 12/18/07  
LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BASES REVISION DATE</u>
B 3.10.1-18	BASES REVISION	01/31/07
B 3.10.2-1	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.10.2-2	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.10.2-3	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.10.2-4	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.10.2-5	300/300/300	12/16/98
B 3.10.2-6	300/300/300	12/16/98

Attachment #1

Proposed Bases revision

Remove Page

B 3.8.3-1  
B 3.8.3-2  
B 3.8.3-3  
B 3.8.3-4  
B 3.8.3-5  
B 3.8.3-6  
B 3.8.3-7  
B 3.8.3-8  
B 3.8.3-9  
B 3.8.3-10  
B 3.8.4-1  
B 3.8.4-2  
B 3.8.4-3  
B 3.8.4-4

Insert Page

B 3.8.3-1  
B 3.8.3-2  
B 3.8.3-3  
B 3.8.3-4  
B 3.8.3-5  
B 3.8.3-6  
B 3.8.3-7  
B 3.8.3-8  
B 3.8.3-9  
B 3.8.3-10  
B 3.8.4-1  
B 3.8.4-2  
B 3.8.4-3  
B 3.8.4-4

Attachment 2

## B 3.8 ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

### B 3.8.3 DC Sources – Operating

#### BASES

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##### BACKGROUND

The 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources provide the AC emergency power system with control power. It also provides both motive power and control power for selected safety related equipment. Additionally, the 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources provide DC electrical power through DC panelboards to the inverters, which in turn supply the AC Vital instrumentation power panelboards.

The 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power system is a system consisting of six power sources shared by the three Oconee units. Each unit has its own two power sources with backup sources supplied to the unit's 125 VDC Vital Instrumentation distribution system from another unit using a network of isolating diode assemblies. This provides necessary redundancy and independence for the 125 VDC Vital I&C power sources. Each source consists of one 125 VDC battery, the associated battery charger (Normal or Standby) for each battery, the distribution center, the associated control equipment, isolating transfer diodes and interconnecting cabling. Additionally, there is one standby battery charger shared between each unit's batteries, which provides backup service in the event that the preferred (Normal) battery charger is out of service.

The 125 VDC I&C batteries of a unit are physically separated in separate enclosures from batteries of another unit to minimize their exposure to any damage. The battery chargers and associated DC distribution centers and switchgear of a unit are located in separate rooms from the battery chargers and associated DC distribution centers of another unit in the auxiliary building and physical separation is maintained between redundant equipment.

During normal operation, the 125 VDC Vital I&C loads are powered from the battery chargers with the batteries floating on the system. In case of loss of power to a battery charger, the associated DC loads are automatically powered from the 125 VDC Vital I&C battery. Each battery has adequate storage capacity to carry the required load continuously for at least 1 hour.

## BASES

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### BACKGROUND (continued)

Each 125 VDC Vital I&C power source has ample power output capacity for the steady state operation of connected loads required during normal operation, while at the same time maintaining its battery bank fully charged. Each battery charger also has sufficient capacity to restore the battery from the design minimum charge to its fully charged state while supplying normal steady state loads.

The 230 kV switchyard 125 VDC Power System provides power to power circuit breakers, protective and control relays, indicating lights, annunciators, carrier equipment and other switchyard equipment requiring an uninterrupted power source.

The 230 kV switchyard 125 VDC Power System consists of two sources. Each source consists of one 125 VDC battery, the associated battery charger (Normal or Standby) for each battery, distribution panel, and associated control equipment and interconnecting cabling. Redundant batteries are located in separate rooms and redundant chargers, distribution centers and panelboards are located on different walls of the 230 kV switchyard relay house. Additionally, there is one standby battery charger shared between the sources, which provides backup service in the event that the preferred (Normal) battery charger is out of service.

During normal operation, the 230 kV 125 VDC loads are powered from the battery chargers with the batteries floating on the system. In case of loss of power to a battery charger, the associated DC load is automatically powered from the 230 kV 125 VDC battery. Each battery has adequate storage capacity to carry the required load continuously for at least 1 hour. Therefore, the temporary alignment of both battery chargers to the same train of input power for testing or maintenance is allowed provided both batteries meet the requirements for energizing their respective panelboards as stated in the Bases for LCO 3.8.8, "Distribution System – Operating."

Each 230 kV 125 VDC power source has ample power output capacity for the steady state operation of connected loads required during normal operation, while at the same time maintaining its battery bank fully charged. Each battery charger also has sufficient capacity to restore the battery from the design minimum charge to its fully charged state while supplying normal steady state loads.

The 125 VDC Vital I&C power and 230 kV 125 VDC power distribution systems are described in more detail in the Bases for LCO 3.8.8, "Distribution System – Operating," and for LCO 3.8.9, "Distribution Systems – Shutdown."

BASES (continued)

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APPLICABLE SAFETY ANALYSES The initial conditions of accident and transient analyses in the UFSAR, Chapter 6 (Ref. 1) and Chapter 15 (Ref. 2), assume that Engineered Safeguards (ES) systems are OPERABLE. The 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power system provides normal and emergency DC electrical power for the emergency auxiliaries, and control and switching during all MODES of operation.

The 230 kV switchyard 125 VDC Power System provides control power for circuit breaker operation in the 230 kV switchyard as well as DC power for degraded grid voltage protection circuits during all MODES of operation.

The OPERABILITY of the DC sources is consistent with the initial assumptions of the accident analyses and is based upon meeting the design basis of the unit. This includes maintaining the DC sources OPERABLE during accident conditions in the event of:

- a. An assumed loss of all offsite AC power or all onsite AC power; and
- b. A worst-case single failure.

The DC sources satisfy Criterion 3 of 10 CFR 50.36 (Ref. 3).

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LCO

Each required 125 VDC electrical source consisting of one battery, associated battery charger (Normal or Standby), distribution center and the corresponding control equipment and interconnecting cabling supplying power to the associated panelboards is required to be OPERABLE to ensure the availability of the required power to shut down the reactor and maintain it in a safe condition after an anticipated transient or an accident. The battery chargers are OPERABLE when they are energized or available to be energized during a power source transfer.

For operation of any Oconee unit, three of four 125 VDC Vital I&C Sources capable of supplying the unit's DC distribution system shall be OPERABLE as follows:

Unit 1: 1CA, 1CB, 2CA, 2CB  
Unit 2: 2CA, 2CB, 3CA, 3CB  
Unit 3: 3CA, 3CB, 1CA, 1CB

and aligned to at least one panelboard provided that a power source is not the only source for two or more of the Unit's panelboards. The three of four requirement ensures that a single failure will not result in a loss of

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## BASES

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### LCO (continued)

power to more than one 125 VDC Vital I&C panelboard. This requirement ensures supported safety functions are not vulnerable to a single failure.

When any other unit is in MODES 1, 2, 3, or 4, two additional 125 VDC Vital I&C Sources are required to be OPERABLE as modified by LCO Note 2. When no other Unit is in MODES 1, 2, 3, or 4, one additional 125 VDC Vital I&C power source is required to be OPERABLE as modified by LCO Notes 2 and 3. These additional requirements ensure sufficient capacity and voltage for supported DC loads assuming a single failure.

The requirement that two 230 kV 125 VDC sources be OPERABLE ensures that supported safety functions are not vulnerable to a single failure.

The LCO is modified by three Notes. Note 1, which applies to Units 2 and 3 only, indicates that no single 125 VDC Vital I&C source shall be the only source for panelboards 1DIC and 1DID. This is necessary since vital I&C panelboards 1DIC and 1DID supply power for SK and SL breaker control, protective relaying for both standby buses, breaker control for both standby breakers for the three Oconee units, and retransfer to startup source logic circuits for the three Oconee units. The requirement that no single 125 VDC source be the only source of power for panelboards 1DIC and 1DID ensures that a single failure will not result in a loss of power to both panelboards. This requirement ensures supported safety functions are not vulnerable to a single failure.

Note 2 indicates that each additional 125 VDC Vital I&C source required by part b or part c of the LCO shall be connected to at least one panelboard associated with the unit where the source is physically located. For example, when applying the LCO requirements to Unit 1, an additional source from Unit 2 must be connected to at least one Unit 2 panelboard and an additional source from Unit 3 must be connected to at least one Unit 3 panelboard. If the additional sources are from Unit 3, each additional source need only be connected to at least one Unit 3 panelboard. Note 3 specifies that the additional 125 VDC Vital I&C power source required by LCO 3.8.3 part c shall not be a power source that is available to meet the three of four requirement of LCO 3.8.3 part a. This ensures that there is one source physically located on each unit not in MODES 1, 2, 3, or 4. For example, when applying the LCO requirements to Unit 1, the additional source cannot be a Unit 1 or Unit 2 power source since these are available to meet the three of four requirement. Therefore, a Unit 3 power source must be OPERABLE. Note 2 and 3 requirements are necessary to assure assumptions in the DC capacity and voltage drop analyses for the operating unit are valid.

BASES (continued)

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APPLICABILITY	<p>The DC electrical power sources are required to be OPERABLE in MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4 to ensure safe unit operation and to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Acceptable fuel design limits and reactor coolant pressure boundary limits are not exceeded as a result of transients and accidents; and</li><li>b. Adequate core cooling is provided, and containment integrity and other vital functions are maintained in the event of a postulated accident.</li></ul> <p>The DC electrical power requirements for MODES 5 and 6 are addressed in the Bases for LCO 3.8.4, "DC Sources – Shutdown."</p>
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ACTIONS	<p>The ACTIONS are modified by a Note indicating that the Completion Times for Required Actions A through D are reduced when in Condition L of LCO 3.8.1. Condition L limits the Completion Time for restoring inoperable power sources to 4 hours when emergency power source(s) or offsite power source(s) are inoperable for extended time periods or for specific reasons.</p>
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A.1

With one of the required 125 VDC Vital I&C sources inoperable, the remaining sources are fully capable of providing adequate voltage to the four unit DC panelboards and will assure alignment of power to at least three panelboards. Three panelboards are necessary to shut down the operating unit and maintain it in a safe shutdown condition. However, overall reliability is reduced because an additional failure could result in the minimum required ES functions not being supported. Therefore, the inoperable source must be restored to OPERABLE status within 24 hours. Required Action A.1 is modified by a Note indicating that it is not applicable for up to 72 hours to perform an equalization charge after completion of a performance test or service test. This note allows a maximum Completion Time of 96 hours (24 hours for an inoperable battery due to performing a service test plus 72 hours to perform equalization charge).

The Completion Time for this Required Action is based on engineering judgment, taking into consideration the extent of degradation involved, the likelihood of events or failures which could challenge the system, and the time required to complete the equalization charge.

## BASES

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### ACTIONS (continued)

#### B.1

In this condition, a single failure of a battery (or its associated equipment) could cause loss of more than one unit panelboard during an accident, so that required safety functions might not be supported. Specifically, if a single source were providing the only power source for panelboards DIA and DIB, single failure of the source would result in failure of both ES digital channels. Vulnerability of the ES digital channels to single failure for 24 hours is considered acceptable due to the limited scope of potential failures. Similarly, if the panelboards are isolated from their backup Unit (e.g., the Unit's DC system is isolated from the other Units), a single failure could result in loss of two or more panelboards so that required safety functions may not be supported. If the panelboards are isolated from their backup Unit when one of that Unit's batteries are inoperable (and the DC buses are cross tied), the remaining battery has the capacity to support all required loads, however, a single failure could result in loss of all four panelboards so that required safety functions may not be supported. Therefore, within 24 hours after such a condition arises, affected equipment shall be restored and aligned such that no single source is the only battery power supply for more than one 125 VDC Vital I&C panelboard for the unit under consideration. The 24 hour Completion Time is based on engineering judgement taking into consideration the time to complete the Required Action and the redundancy available in the 125 VDC Vital I&C System.

#### C.1

With a single source providing the only power supply for 125 VDC Vital I&C panelboards 1DIC and 1DID, a single failure of a battery (or its associated equipment) could cause loss of both panelboards, so that required automatic EPSL functions for all three units may not be supported. These panelboards provide primary and backup control power for the SK and SL breaker control power, standby bus protective relaying, standby breaker control power and retransfer to startup logic. Therefore, within 24 hours after such a condition arises, affected equipment shall be restored and aligned such that no single source is the only battery power supply for both DC panelboards 1DIC and 1DID.

The Completion Time is based on engineering judgement, provides a reasonable time to complete repairs and considers the redundancy available in the 125 VDC Vital I&C DC System.

This Condition is modified by a Note indicating that this ACTION is only applicable to Units 2 and 3. For Unit 1 the appropriate action is specified in ACTION B.

## BASES

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### ACTIONS (continued)

#### D.1

With one of the required 230 kV switchyard DC power sources inoperable, the remaining source is fully capable of providing adequate voltage to the associated panelboards and is fully capable of powering the necessary panelboards. However, another failure of a DC source or panelboard could result in failure of the overhead emergency power path. In addition, in the event of grid voltage degradation the station and onsite emergency power sources could fail to separate from the grid. Therefore, the inoperable source must be restored to OPERABLE status within 24 hours. Required Action D.1 is modified by a Note indicating that it is not applicable for up to 72 hours to perform an equalization charge after completion of a performance test or service test. This note allows a maximum Completion Time of 96 hours (24 hours for an inoperable battery due to performing a service test plus 72 hours to perform equalization charge).

The Completion Time for this Required Action is based on engineering judgment, taking into consideration the extent of degradation involved, the likelihood of events or failures which could challenge the system, and the time required to complete the required actions.

#### E.1 and E.2

If the inoperable DC electrical power source cannot be restored to OPERABLE status within the required Completion Time, the unit must be brought to a MODE in which the LCO does not apply. To achieve this status, the unit must be brought to at least MODE 3 within 12 hours and to MODE 5 within 84 hours. The allowed Completion Times are reasonable, based on operating experience, to reach the required unit conditions from full power conditions in an orderly manner and without challenging unit systems.

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### SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### SR 3.8.3.1

This Surveillance verifies that the distribution centers are functioning properly, with the correct circuit breaker alignment to the isolating transfer diodes. The correct breaker alignment ensures the appropriate separation and independence is maintained, and the appropriate voltage is available to each required isolating transfer diode. The verification of

## BASES

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### SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### SR 3.8.3.1 (continued)

proper voltage availability on the distribution centers ensures that the required voltage is readily available for isolating transfer diodes connected to these distribution centers. The 7 day Frequency takes into account the redundant capability of the DC electrical power distribution systems, and other indications available in the control room that alert the operator to system malfunctions.

#### SR 3.8.3.2

Verifying battery terminal voltage while on float charge for the batteries helps to ensure the effectiveness of the charging system and the ability of the batteries to perform their intended function. Float charge is the condition in which the charger is supplying the continuous charge required to overcome the internal losses of a battery (or battery cell) and maintain the battery (or a battery cell) in a fully charged state. The voltage requirements are based on the nominal design voltage of the battery and are consistent with the initial voltages assumed in the battery sizing calculations. The 7 day Frequency is consistent with manufacturer recommendations and IEEE-450 (Ref. 5).

#### SR 3.8.3.3

Visual inspection of the battery cells, cell plates, and battery racks provides an indication of physical damage or abnormal deterioration that could potentially degrade battery performance. The presence of physical damage or deterioration does not necessarily represent a failure of this SR, provided an evaluation determines that the physical damage or deterioration does not affect the OPERABILITY of the battery (its ability to perform its design function).

The 12 month Frequency for this SR is consistent with IEEE-450 (Ref. 5), which recommends detailed visual inspection of cell condition and rack integrity on a yearly basis.

#### SR 3.8.3.4

Visual inspection of inter-cell, inter-rack, inter-tier, and terminal connections provide an indication of physical damage or abnormal deterioration that could indicate degraded battery condition. The

## BASES

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### SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### SR 3.8.3.4 (continued)

anticorrosion material is used to help ensure good electrical connections and to reduce terminal deterioration. The visual inspection for corrosion is not intended to require removal of and inspection under each terminal connection.

The Surveillance Frequencies of 12 months are consistent with IEEE-450 (Ref. 5), which recommends cell to cell and terminal connection visual inspection on a yearly basis.

#### SR 3.8.3.5

A battery service test is a special test of the battery capability, as found, to satisfy the design requirements (battery duty cycle) of the DC electrical power system. The discharge rate and test length should correspond to the design duty cycle requirements as specified in Reference 4.

The Surveillance Frequency of 12 months is consistent with the recommendations of Regulatory Guide 1.32 (Ref. 6) and Regulatory Guide 1.129 (Ref. 7), which state that the battery service test should be performed during refueling operations, or at some other outage, with intervals between tests not to exceed 18 months.

#### SR 3.8.3.6

This SR requires battery capacity be verified in accordance with the Battery Discharge Testing Program. A battery performance discharge test is a test of constant current capacity of a battery, normally done in the as found condition, after having been in service, to detect any change in the capacity determined by the acceptance test.

The test is intended to determine overall battery degradation due to age and usage.

The Surveillance Frequencies for this test are in accordance with the Battery Discharge Testing Program and are consistent with the recommendations in IEEE-450 (Ref. 5). These periodic frequencies are based on the outcome of the previous battery capacity test.

BASES (continued)

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- REFERENCES
1. UFSAR, Chapter 6.
  2. UFSAR, Chapter 15.
  3. 10 CFR 50.36.
  4. UFSAR, Chapter 8.
  5. IEEE-450-1987.
  6. Regulatory Guide 1.32, February 1977.
  7. Regulatory Guide 1.129, December 1974.
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## B 3.8 ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

### B 3.8.4 DC Sources – Shutdown

#### BASES

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**BACKGROUND** A description of the 125 VDC Vital I&C sources is provided in the Bases for LCO 3.8.3, "DC Sources – Operating."

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**APPLICABLE SAFETY ANALYSES** The initial conditions of Accidents and transients analyses in the UFSAR, Chapter 6 (Ref. 1) and Chapter 15 (Ref. 2), assume that Engineered Safeguard (ES) systems are OPERABLE. The 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power system provides normal and emergency DC electrical power for the emergency auxiliaries, and control and switching during all MODES of operation.

Although the 230 kV Switchyard 125 VDC Power System provides control power for circuit breaker operation in the 230 kV switchyard as well as DC power for degraded grid voltage protection circuits during all MODES of operation, no credit is taken for these functions in MODES 5 and 6.

The OPERABILITY of the 125 VDC Vital I&C sources is consistent with the initial assumptions of the accident analyses and the requirements for the supported systems' OPERABILITY.

The OPERABILITY of the minimum 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources during MODES 5 and 6 and during movement of recently irradiated fuel assemblies ensures that:

- a. The unit can be maintained in the shutdown or refueling condition for extended periods;
- b. Sufficient instrumentation and control capability is available for monitoring and maintaining the unit status; and
- c. Adequate DC electrical power is provided to mitigate events postulated during shutdown, such as a fuel handling accident involving handling recently irradiated fuel. Due to radioactive decay, DC electrical power is only required to mitigate fuel handling accidents involving handling recently irradiated fuel (i.e., fuel that has occupied part of a critical reactor core within the previous 72 hours).



BASES (continued)

APPLICABLE SAFETY ANALYSIS (continued) The 125 VDC Vital I&C sources satisfy Criterion 3 of 10CFR 50.36 (Ref. 3).

LCO The 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources, each source consisting of one battery, the associated battery charger (Normal or Standby), and the corresponding control equipment and interconnecting cabling within the source, are required to be OPERABLE to support required distribution systems required OPERABLE by LCO 3.8.9, "Distribution Systems – Shutdown" and shall include at least one of the unit's 125 VDC Vital I&C power sources. This ensures the availability of sufficient 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources to operate the unit in a safe manner and to mitigate the consequences of postulated events during shutdown (e.g., fuel handling accidents involving handling recently irradiated fuel).

APPLICABILITY The 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources required to be OPERABLE in MODES 5 and 6 and during movement of recently irradiated fuel assemblies, provide assurance that:

- a. Required features to provide adequate coolant inventory makeup are available for the irradiated fuel assemblies in the core;
- b. Required features needed to mitigate a fuel handling accident involving handling recently irradiated fuel (i.e., fuel that has occupied part of a critical reactor core within the previous 72 hours) are available;
- c. Required features necessary to mitigate the effects of events that can lead to core damage during shutdown are available; and
- d. Instrumentation and control capability is available for monitoring and maintaining the unit in a cold shutdown condition or refueling condition.

The 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power requirements for MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4 are covered in LCO 3.8.3.

ACTIONS A.1, A.2.1, A.2.2, A.2.3, and A.2.4

If two or more 125 VDC Vital I&C panelboards are required by LCO 3.8.9, the remaining 125 VDC Vital I&C panelboards with 125 VDC Vital I&C power available may be capable of supporting sufficient systems to allow

## BASES

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### ACTIONS

#### A.1, A.2.1, A.2.2, A.2.3, and A.2.4 (continued)

continuation of CORE ALTERATIONS and fuel movement involving handling recently irradiated fuel. By allowing the option to declare required features inoperable with the associated 125 VDC Vital I&C power source(s) inoperable, appropriate restrictions will be implemented in accordance with the affected required features LCO ACTIONS. In many instances this option may involve undesired administrative efforts. Therefore, the allowance for sufficiently conservative actions is made (i.e., to suspend CORE ALTERATIONS, movement of recently irradiated fuel assemblies, and operations involving positive reactivity additions). The Required Action to suspend positive reactivity additions does not preclude actions to maintain or increase reactor vessel inventory, provided the required SDM is maintained.

Suspension of these activities shall not preclude completion of actions to establish a safe conservative condition. These actions minimize probability of the occurrence of postulated events. It is further required to immediately initiate action to restore the required 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources and to continue this action until restoration is accomplished in order to provide the necessary 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power to the unit safety systems.

The Completion Time of immediately is consistent with the required times for actions requiring prompt attention. The restoration of the required 125 VDC Vital I&C electrical power sources should be completed as quickly as possible in order to minimize the time during which the unit safety systems may be without sufficient power.

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### SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### SR 3.8.4.1

SR 3.8.4.1 requires performance of all Surveillances required by SR 3.8.3.1 through SR 3.8.3.6. Therefore, see the corresponding Bases for LCO 3.8.3 for a discussion of each SR.

This SR is modified by a Note. The reason for the Note is to preclude requiring the OPERABLE 125 VDC Vital I&C sources from being discharged below their capability to provide the required power supply or otherwise rendered inoperable during the performance of SRs. It is the intent that these SRs must still be capable of being met, but actual performance is not required.

BASES (continued)

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- REFERENCES
1. UFSAR, Chapter 6.
  2. UFSAR, Chapter 15.
  3. 10 CFR 50.36.
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