



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 4, 2009

Mr. David A. Baxter
Site Vice President
Duke Power Company, LLC
d/b/a Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000269/2009001, 05000270/2009001,
AND 05000287/2009001)

Dear Mr. Baxter:

On February 10, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Oconee Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only – Security Related Information" will include the Security Cornerstone performance review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter of the assessment cycle, for Units 2 and 3, was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Plant performance for the most recent quarter, for Unit 1, was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix. This was the result of a fourth quarter 2008 Initiating Events Cornerstone finding of low to moderate safety significance (White). The fourth quarter White finding involved a failure to implement an adequate automatic voltage regulator (AVR) maintenance procedure, which resulted in a loss of reactor coolant system inventory while on decay heat removal. As a result of the Regulatory Response performance during the fourth quarter of the assessment period, a supplemental inspection will be performed under Inspection Procedure (IP) 95001.

Plant performance for Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 during the first three quarters of the assessment cycle was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on the associated inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green).

We currently plan to perform the aforementioned supplemental inspection in the Summer 2009 time frame. In addition to the supplemental inspection and reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspection activities, we also plan on conducting several non-ROP inspections, which involve: (1) operator licensing examinations; (2) review of the implementation of the industry groundwater protection voluntary initiative (Temporary Instruction (TI)-2515/173); (3) emergency response organization drill/exercise performance indicator program review (TI-2515/175); (4) reactor coolant system dissimilar metal butt welds (TI-2515/172); and (5) the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. Additionally, the staff will continue its review of issues associated with fire, external flooding, tornado, and high energy line break mitigation.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through June 30, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Jonathan Bartley at (404) 562-4607 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard D. Wert, Jr., Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287, 72-004, 72-040
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

☐ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

☐ SENSITIVE

X NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: X Yes

ACCESSION NUMBER: _____

X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP				
SIGNATURE	EJS /RA/	JHB /RA/	LDW /RA/				
NAME	EStamm	JBartley	LWert				
DATE	02/27/2009	02/27/2009	03/03/2009				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DRP\PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS & REPORTS\EOC & MID-CYCLE\2008\END-OF-CYCLE\RPB1\OCO - 2008 EOC LETTER.DOC

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DEC

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Letter to David A. Baxter from Leonard D. Wert, Jr. dated March 4, 2009

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AND 05000287/2009001)

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