

March 19, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth Basil
Engineering Division Director
S.C. DHEC
2600 Bull St
Columbia, SC 29201

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BY THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION FOR THE PROPOSED OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION
INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Ms. Basil:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is currently reviewing a license renewal application submitted by Duke Power Company LLC on January 30, 2008, to continue to operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the site of the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) in Oconee County, South Carolina. As part of the license renewal process, an applicant must submit an environmental report as part of its application, as required under 10 CFR Part 51 of the NRC's regulations. The NRC staff reviews this information in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, as specified in 10 CFR 51.10.

The NRC staff has completed its environmental review of ONS's application and has drafted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document our findings. We conclude in the EA that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Consistent with NRC policy for such actions, the staff contacted your office on March 5, 2009 and spoke with Mr. McCaslin regarding our request for your office to have the opportunity to review our draft EA and comment on environmental issues prior to public issuance of the EA.

Per Mr. McCaslin's request, I have addressed this letter to you and enclosed three copies of the draft EA, which is marked as pre-decisional information. The three copies are to be distributed per your discretion to ensure that an adequate review is conducted for all the resource areas such as air, land and water. We request that the distribution and use of this document be limited only to those staff involved in the review and comment process. We further request that your office provide any comments to the NRC staff within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

The NRC staff will consider your timely comments, and will revise the Environmental Assessment, as appropriate, before its final issuance. Concurrent with the issuance of the EA, the staff plans to forward its Finding of No Significant Impact for publication in the *Federal Register*.

E. Basil

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If you or your staff has any questions on this matter, please contact Haimanot Yilma of my staff. She can be reached by phone at 301-415-8029, or by email at haimanot.yilma@nrc.gov. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Andrea Kock, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and
Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 072-04

Enclosure: As stated

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NAME	HYilma	AWalker	AKock
DATE	03/6/09	03/12/09	03/19/09

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