



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 15, 2009

Mr. Dave Baxter
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION (RAI) REGARDING RELIEF REQUEST 08-ON-002
CONCERNING LIMITED WELD EXAMINATION COVERAGE (TAC NOS.
ME0752 AND ME0753)

Dear Mr. Baxter:

By letter dated December 29, 2008, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee), requested relief from the volumetric coverage requirement for weld examinations specified in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code), Section XI, as modified by ASME Code Case N-460. The relief is requested for Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3 for the remainder of the fourth 10-year inservice inspection interval.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed and evaluated the information provided by the licensee and has determined that additional information is required to complete its review. In a phone conversation with members of your staff on July 6, 2009, to provide clarification of the requested information, your staff committed to provide the requested information 30 days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-1345.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Stang".

John Stang, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-287

Enclosure:
RAI

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RELIEF REQUEST 08-ON-002 LIMITED WELD EXAMINATION COVERAGE
DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3
DOCKET NO. 50-287

By letter dated December 29, 2008 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML090050027), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee), submitted Relief Request 08-ON-002 for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's review and approval. Pursuant to paragraph 50.55a(g)(5)(iii) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the licensee requested relief from the volumetric coverage requirement for weld examinations specified in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code), Section XI, as modified by ASME Code Case N-460. The relief is requested for Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3 for the remainder of the fourth 10-year inservice inspection interval scheduled to end on December 16, 2014. The request pertains to volumetric examination of the reducer-to-valve 3LP-18 weld in the low pressure injection system and the tee-to-pipe weld in the high pressure injection system. The request contains the results of the ultrasonic testing performed during the 2006 outage on the subject welds where 100-percent coverage of the required examination volume could not be achieved because of interferences from existing piping and valve geometry.

The NRC staff has determined that the following information is needed in order to complete its review of the relief request.

For weld 3HP-365-9C:

1. Explain the angles used for shear wave examination. In particular, address the use of a 38-degree shear wave as shown on page 5 of Attachment A of the relief request.
2. Clarify the discrepancies in regard to the shear wave examination between the text in paragraph IV on page 5, the contents of the table on page 5 of Attachment A, and the contents of the table on page 11 of Attachment A.

Enclosure

July 15, 2009

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SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI) REGARDING RELIEF REQUEST 08-ON-002 CONCERNING LIMITED WELD EXAMINATION COVERAGE (TAC NOS. ME0752 AND ME0753)

Dear Mr. Baxter:

By letter dated December 29, 2008, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee), requested relief from the volumetric coverage requirement for weld examinations specified in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code), Section XI, as modified by ASME Code Case N-460. The relief is requested for Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3 for the remainder of the fourth 10-year inservice inspection interval.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed and evaluated the information provided by the licensee and has determined that additional information is required to complete its review. In a phone conversation with members of your staff on July 6, 2009, to provide clarification of the requested information, your staff committed to provide the requested information 30 days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-1345.

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/RA/

John Stang, Senior Project Manager
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Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
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