



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

September 1, 2009

Mr. David A. Baxter
Site Vice President
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - OCONEE
NUCLEAR STATION**

Dear Mr. Baxter:

On August 11, 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 July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. 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.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Oconee 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). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Oconee Unit 1 was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on a fourth quarter 2008 Initiating Events Cornerstone finding of low to moderate safety significance (White). On May 7, 2009, we were notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address this White finding. Therefore, we initiated supplemental inspection 95001 on August 31, 2009.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through December 31, 2010. In addition to the supplemental inspection and ROP baseline inspections, we also plan on conducting several infrequently performed inspections, which include Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/172, Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds; TI 2515/175, Emergency Response Organization, Drill/Exercise Performance Indicator Program Review; IP 60855.1, Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants; and operator licensing examinations. Additionally, the staff will continue its review of issues associated with fire, external flooding, tornado, and high energy line break mitigation. 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 end-of-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).

As you may know, the NRC is currently evaluating the scope and frequency of all the baseline inspection procedures. If the results of the evaluation, or any other circumstances, 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, 72-04, 72-40
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 **JHB**

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP			
SIGNATURE	JHB /RA/	EJS /RA/	JDW /RA/			
NAME	JBartley	EStamm	LWert			
DATE	08/26/2009	08/24/2009	09/01/2009			
E-MAIL COPY?	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\2009\MID-CYCLE\RPB1\OCONEE MID CYCLE 2009 LETTER.DOC

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4

Letter to David A. Baxter from Leonard D. Wert, Jr., dated September 1, 2009

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - OCONEE
NUCLEAR STATION

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ROP Reports

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)