



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

September 1, 2010

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 10, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Oconee Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. 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 enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter, marked as "Official Use Only - Security Related Information," will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance at Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 for the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on one Yellow Mitigating Systems finding for Units 1, 2, and 3 and a White Mitigating Systems finding for Units 2 and 3. Both of these findings originated in the first quarter of 2010. We will conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95002, Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area, to assess your evaluation of and corrective actions for these findings when you have notified us of your readiness.

Additionally, on August 12, 2010, the staff issued a severity level III Notice of Violation in accordance with the NRC's Enforcement Policy. We will conduct a follow-up inspection using Inspection Procedure 92702, Follow-up on Corrective Actions for Violations and Deviations, for this violation when you have notified us of your readiness.

In addition to reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections, we also plan on conducting Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/172, Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds; TI 2515/179, National Source Tracking System Verification; and initial reactor operator license examinations. Also, the staff will continue its review and inspection of modifications associated with fire, tornado, and high energy line break mitigation; and safety-related digital control systems.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through December 31, 2011. The inspection plan is provided 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.

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) 997-4607 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan (09/01/2010 – 12/31/2011)

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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SIGNATURE	JHB /RA for/	JHB /RA/	JTM /RA for/	LAR /RA for/	LAR /RA/		
NAME	EStamm	JBartley	LWert	VMcCree	LReyes		
DATE	08/31/2010	08/30/2010	08/31/2010	09/01/2010	09/01/2010		
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc w/encl:

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DEC

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Letter to David A. Baxter from Luis A. Reyes dated September 1, 2010

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

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