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

August 2, 2011

Mr. Preston Gillespie
Site Vice President
Oconee Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3, EVALUATION OF 2010 (CYCLE 25) STEAM GENERATOR (SG) TUBE INSPECTIONS (TAC NO. ME5835)

Dear Mr. Gillespie

By letter dated February 17, 2011, (AgencyWide Documents Access And Management System Accession No. ML110530512), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee), submitted information summarizing the results of the 2010 SG tube inspections at Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3 during the Cycle 25 refueling outage.

The U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of these reports and concludes that the licensee provided the information required by their technical specifications and that no additional follow-up is required at this time. The NRC staff's review of the reports is enclosed.

Sincerely,

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:
Evaluation of SG Tube Inspections

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

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

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

EVALUATION OF THE 2010 STEAM GENERATOR (SG) TUBE INSPECTIONS

PERFORMED DURING THE 2010 REFUELING OUTAGE

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3

DOCKET NO. 50-287

By letter dated February 17, 2011, (Agencywide Documents Access And Management System Accession No. ML110530512), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, the licensee, submitted information summarizing the results of the 2010 SG tube inspections at Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3 (Oconee Unit 3) that were performed during refueling outage 25.

Oconee Unit 3 is a two-loop pressurized-water reactor with replacement once-through steam generators (ROTSGs) manufactured by Babcock & Wilcox (B&W), Canada. The Oconee Unit 3 ROTSGs were installed during the fall 2004 refueling outage. The ROTSGs contain 15,631 thermally treated Alloy 690 tubes that have been hydraulically expanded into the tubesheet to a depth of 13 inches. There are 15 Type 410 stainless steel tube support plates (TSP) of trifoil broach design; however, there are some round drilled openings at the 14th TSP.

The first inservice inspection of the ROTSGs at Oconee Unit 3 (spring 2006), revealed widespread wear degradation of the tubing at TSP locations. Oconee Units 1 and 2 have also experienced this widespread tube wear degradation at TSP locations. As a result of the 2010 inspections, five tubes were plugged in the ROTSG 3A and five tubes were plugged in the ROTSG 3B due to wear.

Based on a review of the information provided, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff concludes that the licensee provided the information required by their technical specifications. In addition, the staff concludes that there are no technical issues that warrant follow-up action at this time since the inspections appear to be consistent with the objective of detecting potential tube degradation and the inspection results appear to be consistent with industry operating experience at similarly designed and operated units.

Principal Contributor: C. Hunter

Date: August 2, 2011

Enclosure

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/RA/

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