



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

September 15, 2011

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

**SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3, IMPLEMENTATION OF
LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 372, 374 AND 373 (TAC NOS. ME3840, ME3841,
ME3842)**

Dear Mr. Gillespie,

On March 21, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Amendment Nos. 372, 374, and 373 to Renewed Facility Operating Licenses DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55, for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee), respectively. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated March 17, 2010, as supplemented January 14, 2011.

These amendments revise the TSs to adopt the NRC-approved Technical Specification Task Force – 425, Revision 3, “Relocate Surveillance Frequencies to Licensee Control – Risk-Informed Technical Specification Task Force Initiative 5b.” When implemented, TSTF–425 Revision 3 relocates most periodic frequencies of TS surveillances to a licensee-controlled program, the Surveillance Frequency Control Program, and will provide requirements for the new program in the Administrative Controls Section of the TSs.

In the March 21, 2011, application, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee) requested that the amendments be implemented after the NRC had issued a proposed TS change to extend TS surveillance requirements to accommodate a 24-month fuel cycle. When the above mentioned license amendments were issued and implementation time of 180 days was put into the amendments with the expectations that the NRC would issue the 24-month fuel cycle license amendments prior to the 180-day implementation time.

The review of the 24-month fuel cycle license amendments has unexpectedly been delayed. The NRC is expecting to issue the amendments shortly, but not before the 180-day implementation time in the above amendments has expired. By letter dated September 2, 2011, the licensee requested to implement Amendment Nos. 372, 374, and 373 as originally requested in the March 21, 2011, application, after the NRC has issued the license amendments associated with the 24-month fuel cycle. If the licensee were to implement Amendment Nos. 372, 374, and 373 within the 180 days the TS pages would not be accurate, because of the coordination with the TS pages associated with the 24-month fuel cycle.

The licensee’s request is administrative in nature. If Amendment Nos. 372, 374, and 373 are not implemented within the 180-day period this will not affect safe plant operation. The existing TSs will remain in effect until the amendments have been implemented. The existing TSs provide

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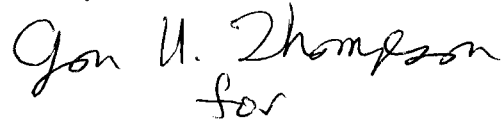
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reasonable assurance the plant equipment associated with Amendment Nos. 372, 374, and 373, will perform their intended function.

Therefore, the NRC staff finds that the schedule for implementation of Amendment Nos. 372, 374, and 373, after the implementation of the 24-month fuel cycle license amendments, as originally requested by the licensee, is acceptable.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon U. Thompson" on the top line and "for" on the line below it.

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

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

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

Sincerely,

/RA by JThompson for/

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

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