



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

March 6, 2012

CAL 2-12-001

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

**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER - OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 COMMITMENTS TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE STANDBY SHUTDOWN FACILITY DESIGN REVIEW AND AN EVALUATION OF MODIFICATIONS/PROCEDURE CHANGES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF BUS DUCT FAULTS**

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

This letter confirms commitments made by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC) in your letters dated January 26 and February 17, 2012. Specifically, the letters stated that DEC would undertake the following initiatives:

1. Perform a comprehensive design, licensing, and operational review of the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Standby Shutdown Facility (SSF). The goal of the review would be to ensure that systems, structures, and components associated with the SSF functions are capable of performing their design function. This review will be completed by March 29, 2013.
2. Evaluate modifications and/or procedure changes to reduce core damage frequency associated with bus duct faults. The evaluation will be completed by July 12, 2012.

Since 2001, the NRC has issued two Yellow and four White findings to ONS related to design, operations and maintenance of the Standby Shutdown Facility (SSF). In addition, during the significance determination for the Yellow finding issued in 2010, the NRC determined that the risk resulting from bus duct faults in the turbine building was the dominant core damage risk factor for SSF performance deficiencies. The NRC staff has confirmed that DEC corrected the underlying technical issues associated with each finding. However, these findings have called into question the clarity and implementation of the SSF design and licensing basis. In light of this, DEC has committed to carry out the initiatives described in 1 and 2 above. The NRC encourages licensee initiatives such as these to reveal and resolve issues that are more likely to be identified by a comprehensive design, licensing, and operational review.

As you conduct the design review of the SSF, the NRC staff will assess the effectiveness of your disposition of any significant issues identified during the review. In addition, the NRC staff will conduct an inspection in the spring of 2013 to review your corrective actions for issues identified in the course of the review. In the interim, if the NRC staff determines that an issue is not being appropriately dispositioned in accordance with license requirements, the DEC Corrective Action Program, or the commitments documented in the letters referenced above, the NRC will assess the need for any other regulatory action needed to resolve any associated safety concerns.

Pursuant to Section 182 of the Atomic Energy Act, 42 U.S.C. 2232, you are required to:

- 1) Notify me immediately if your understanding differs from that set forth above;
- 2) Notify me if for any reason you cannot complete the actions within the specified schedule and advise me in writing of your modified schedule in advance of the change; and
- 3) Notify me in writing when you have completed the actions addressed in this Confirmatory Action Letter.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude issuance of an Order formalizing the above commitments or requiring other actions on the part of the licensee; nor does it preclude the NRC from taking enforcement action for violations of NRC requirements that may have prompted the issuance of this letter. In addition, failure to take the actions addressed in this Confirmatory Action Letter may result in enforcement action.

This Confirmatory Action Letter will remain in effect until the reviews and evaluations identified in this Confirmatory Action Letter are complete.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Victor M. McCree  
Regional Administrator

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

cc: (See next page)

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Victor M. McCree  
Regional Administrator

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

cc: (See next page)

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

SENSITIVE

NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS:  Yes    ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12067A059

SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE  FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:EICS	NRR	RII:ORA	RII:RA
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA By E-Mail/	LXW1	VMM
NAME	JBartley	WJones	RCroteau	CEvans	ELeeds	LWert	VMcCree
DATE	2/29/2012	2/29/2012	2/29/2012	2/29/2012	3/6/2012	3/6/2012	3/6/2012
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY    DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRPIIRPB1\OCONEECAL SSF DESIGN REVIEW.DOCX

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J. Pelchat, RII

C. Evans, RII EICS (Part 72 Only)

L. Douglas, RII EICS (Linda Douglas)

OE Mail (email address if applicable)

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