



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

June 28, 2012

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, SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE CALL
REGARDING THE SPRING 2012 STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTION
RESULTS (TAC NO. ME8484)

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff formally reviews all steam generator (SG) inservice inspection summary reports submitted by licensees in accordance with the plant's Technical Specification requirements. The NRC staff also participates in conference calls with most licensees when SG tube inspections are being conducted during a plant outage. On April 30, 2012, the NRC staff participated in a conference call with Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee) regarding the ongoing SG tube inspections at Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3. A summary of the conference call is enclosed. Information provided by the licensee in support of the conference call is located in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12121A638.

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-2901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Boska".

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

Docket No. 50-287

Enclosure:
As stated

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CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

2012 STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 3

DOCKET NO. 50-287

On April 30, 2012, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from the Steam Generator Tube Integrity and Chemical Engineering Branch of the Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, participated in a conference call with Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee) regarding their ongoing steam generator (SG) tube inspections at Oconee Nuclear Station (Oconee), Unit 3. Information provided by the licensee in support of the conference call is located in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12121A638.

Oconee Unit 3 is a two-loop pressurized water reactor with replacement once-through steam generators (ROTSGs) manufactured by Babcock & Wilcox, Canada. The ROTSGs were installed in 2004. A major point of interest to the staff was the state of tube-to-tube wear in the ROTSGs at Oconee Unit 3. Tube-to-tube wear had been recently identified in ROTSGs located at two other sites in the United States, although the ROTSGs at those sites were fabricated by a different manufacturer than the ROTSGs located at Oconee Unit 3.

The licensee provided a written summary of its inspection program, status, and results to date, which addressed all the discussion points requested by the staff prior to the phone call (ADAMS Accession No. ML121160280). During the phone call, the licensee discussed the summary material with the NRC staff.

Additional clarifying information and information not included in the summary provided by the licensee is summarized below.

- The licensee clarified that the tube-to-tube wear indications are located in the area of highest compression within the ROTSGs. The indications are located primarily inside the second ring of stay rods and are located at the center of the bundle. All but one of the indications is traceable back to the first inspections performed after steam generator replacement in 2004, and the indications are showing very little growth.
- Prior outages had used a 0.5 volt screening threshold for the tube-to-tube wear indications and prior to flagging that an indication had been found, the data analysis software had to measure the through-wall wear indication on a second channel within +/- 10 percent of the through-wall percentage reported on the first channel. For the current outage, the software logic was changed to only require that a second channel confirm the existence of the indication to flag that an indication had been found.

Enclosure

- The licensee reported that the number of tubes in ROTSG 3B was 15,618, not 15,648 as shown in the provided table.
- The 1.39 effective full power years reported in the Tube Support Plate Wear table is for the most recent cycle of operation.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

John P. Boska, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
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ADAMS Accession No. ML12178A206

* Memo dated

** Via Email

OFFICE	NRR/LPL2-1/PM	NRR/LPL2-1/LA*	DE/ESGB/BC*	NRR/LPL2-1/BC	NRR/LPL2-1/PM
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