



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

July 2, 2012

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

**SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION – 05000269/2012302, 05000270/2012302, and
05000287/2012302**

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

In a conversation on June 14, 2012, between Mr. J. R. Steely, Operations Training Manager and Mr. Gerard W. Laska, Senior Operations Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Oconee Nuclear Plant. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the week of December 17, 2012. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of December 10, 2012. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of November 26, 2012.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare both the operating test and written examination based on the guidelines in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your staff has also agreed to make copies of all examination materials that are necessary for administering the examination.

Your training staff has agreed to furnish us the operating test outline on October 1, 2012. Mr. Mark Bates provided a written examination outline to your staff on April 25, 2012. The written examination and supporting reference material identified in Attachment 3, to ES-201, is due by October 15, 2012. The operating test and its supporting reference material will be due by October 30, 2012. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outline, examination and test before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E, of NUREG-1021, contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications, medical certifications, and waiver requests, (if any), at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under approval number 3150-0018, which expires February 28, 2013. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response for examinations prepared by the facility, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at infocollectsresource@nrc.gov; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may neither conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Steely has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Gerard W. Laska at (404) 997-4626, (Internet E-mail: gerard.laska@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4550, (Internet E-mail: Malcolm.widmann@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief
Operations Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287,
License No.: DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55

cc: (See page 4)

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Steely has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Gerard W. Laska at (404) 997-4626, (Internet E-mail: gerard.laska@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4550, (Internet E-mail: Malcolm.widmann@nrc.gov).

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Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief
Operations Branch 1
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cc: (See page 4)

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE
 NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE
 SENSITIVE
 NON-SENSITIVE
 ADAMS: Yes
 ACCESSION NUMBER: _____
 SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE
 FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS					
SIGNATURE	RA	RA					
NAME	LASKA	WIDMANN					
DATE	7/2/2012	7/2/2012					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc:

Division of Radiological Health
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1532

Charles J. Thomas
Fleet Licensing Manager
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

David A. Baxter
Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
General Office
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

David A. Cummings
Associate General Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Judy E. Smith
Licensing Administrator
Oconee Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Kent Alter
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Oconee Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Lara S. Nichols
Vice President-Legal
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Luellen B. Jones
Fleet Licensing Engineer
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

M. Christopher Nolan
Fleet Safety Assurance Manager
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Sandra Threatt, Manager
Nuclear Response and Emergency
Environmental Surveillance
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Department of Health and Environmental
Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

Scott L. Batson
Station Manager
Oconee Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Richardson, Alicia
Licensing Administrative Assistant
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Oconee Nuclear Station
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7812B Rochester Hwy
Seneca, SC 29672

Terry L. Patterson
Safety Assurance Manager
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Charles Brinkman
Director
Washington Operations
Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Tom D. Ray
Engineering Manager
Oconee Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Supervisor of Oconee County
415 S. Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691-2145

(cc cont'd – See page 5)

(cc cont'd)

W. Lee Cox, III

Section Chief

Radiation Protection Section

N.C. Department of Environmental

Commerce & Natural Resources

Electronic Mail Distribution

Duke Energy Corporation

ATTN: Mr. Paul Stovall

Training Manager

Oconee Nuclear Station

7800 Rochester Highway

Seneca, SC 29672-0752

Letter to T. Preston Gillespie, Jr. from Malcolm T. Widmann dated July 2, 2012.

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
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