



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

August 16, 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: CLOSURE OF CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER ITEM - OCONEE
NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3, COMMITMENT TO PERFORM A
COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF MODIFICATIONS/PROCEDURE
CHANGES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF BUS DUCT FAULTS**

Dear Mr. Gillespie,

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee) previously committed to evaluate modifications and/or procedure changes to reduce core damage frequency associated with bus duct faults by July 12, 2012 (CAL 2-12-001, Item 2). The NRC confirmed this commitment in a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) dated March 6, 2012 (ML12067A059). In a letter dated July 12, 2012, you provided information on actions taken to meet this commitment. The enhancements identified in your response to refurbish the non-segregated bus duct bolted joints and perform periodic indirect thermal imaging of the main feeder buses on a six month periodicity provide a limited risk reduction benefit. However, once the Protected Service Water modification is complete and operational, it will provide a significant reduction of core damage frequency associated with bus duct faults in the turbine.

Your July 12 letter indicated that you also evaluated other alternatives including protecting the cables under the bust duct or physically separating (re-routing) cables. However, your evaluation determined that these other alternatives were not feasible.

We have reviewed the letter and find that those actions are adequate to satisfy this commitment. Accordingly, this CAL item is closed. CAL item 1 associated with the performance of a comprehensive design, licensing, and operational review of the Standby Shutdown Facility remains open.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Jonathan Bartley at (404) 997-4607.

T. Gillespie, Jr.

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

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 page 3)

T. Gillespie, Jr.

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T. Gillespie, Jr.

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T. Gillespie, Jr.

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Letter to T. Preston Gillespie, Jr. from Victor M. McCree dated August 16, 2012

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CHANGES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF BUS DUCT FAULTS

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