



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

September 4, 2012

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000369/2012006 AND 05000370/2012006)**

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

On August 14, 2012, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Oconee Nuclear Station Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This assessment reflects the integration of the Security Cornerstone into the IMC 0305, "Reactor Oversight Process." ROP performance assessment program governed by IMC 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

The NRC determined the performance at Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 during the previous four quarters was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix. The NRC issued a Yellow Finding on December 6, 2011, for failing to ensure that the Standby Shutdown Facility (SSF) pressurizer heater breakers would function during all credited SSF events. All other inspection findings had very low (i.e. Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal expected range. The NRC determined that this Yellow Finding met the requirements of Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, Operating Reactor Assessment Program, for treatment as an "old design issue," and therefore, the finding did not aggregate in the NRC's Action Matrix. In addition to ROP baseline inspections, the NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95002, Supplemental Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area, to review the actions taken to address this finding the week of August 27, 2012.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. In addition to the ROP baseline inspections, we will conduct license renewal inspections, initial reactor operator examinations, and, consistent with the Agency's actions related to Fukushima, TI-187, Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns and TI-188, Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns. The

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inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

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

Please contact me at 404-997-4607 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jonathan H. Bartley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

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

License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan (09/01/2012 – 12/31/2013)

cc w/Encl: (See page 3)

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Sincerely,

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Jonathan H. Bartley, Chief
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cc w/Encl: (See page 3)

X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

SENSITIVE

X NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: Yes

ACCESSION NUMBER: _____

X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRP								
SIGNATURE	JHB /RA/								
NAME	JBartley								
DATE	09/04/2012								
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: [HTTP://PORTAL.NRC.GOV/EDO/RII/DRP/BRANCH1/QUARTERLY DEBRIEF INPUTS/ONS MID-CYCLE LETTER.DOCX](http://portal.nrc.gov/edo/rii/drp/branch1/quarterly_debrief_inputs/ons_mid-cycle_letter.docx)

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cc w/encl:

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Letter to T. Preston Gillespie, Jr. from Jonathan H. Bartley dated September 4, 2012

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000369/2012006 AND 05000370/2012006)

Distribution w/encl:

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OE Mail

RIDSNRRDIRS

PUBLIC

RidsNrrPMOconee Resource

INPO

ROP Reports

Oconee

Inspection / Activity Plan

09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1, 2, 3	09/10/2012 09/14/2012	TI-177 IP 2515/177	- TI-177 Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	5
1, 2, 3	09/17/2012 09/21/2012	PSB1EP IP 7111401	- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE Exercise Evaluation	6
1, 2, 3	09/17/2012 09/21/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1, 2, 3	10/15/2012 10/17/2012	TI-188 IP 2515/188	- TI-188 P2 - NTTF 2.3 - SEISMIC WALKDOWNS Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns	1
1	11/05/2012 11/09/2012	EB3 ISI IP 7111108P	- UNIT 1 INSERVICE INSPECTION & RPVH EXAMS Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	2
1, 2, 3	11/05/2012 11/09/2012	EB3 LR IP 71003	- UNIT 1 POST APPROVAL LR - PHASE 1 Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	2
1	11/05/2012 11/09/2012	EB3SGISI IP 7111108P	- UNIT 1 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
1	11/26/2012 11/30/2012	OL EXAM V23391	- INITIAL EXAM PREP OCONEE/DECEMBER 2012 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	12/17/2012 12/21/2012	OL EXAM V23391	- INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1 OCONEE/DECEMBER 2012 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1, 2, 3	01/08/2013 01/10/2013	OCO TFPI IP 7111105x	- OCO - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSP Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial)	6
1, 2, 3	01/28/2013 02/01/2013	IP 7111105x	Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial)	
1, 2, 3	02/11/2013 02/15/2013	IP 7111105x	Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial)	
1, 2, 3	02/11/2013 02/14/2013	OL RQ IP 7111111B	- REQUAL INSPECTION Licensed Operator Requalification Program	2
1, 2, 3	04/01/2013 04/05/2013	PI&R IP 71152B	- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION Problem Identification and Resolution	5
1, 2, 3	04/15/2013 04/19/2013	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	05/20/2013 05/24/2013	OL EXAM V23406	- INITIAL EXAM PREP OCONEE/JUNE 2013 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	06/10/2013 06/14/2013	OL EXAM V23406	- INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1 OCONEE/JUNE 2013 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1, 2, 3	08/26/2013 08/30/2013	MODS IP 7111117T	- PERM MODS 50.59 INSPECTION Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	4
1, 2, 3	09/09/2013 09/13/2013	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	

This report does not include INFO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
		EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION		1
1, 2, 3	09/16/2013 09/20/2013	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1, 2, 3	09/16/2013 09/20/2013	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1, 2, 3	09/16/2013 09/20/2013	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1, 2, 3	09/16/2013 09/20/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		ISI - UNIT 2 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION		2
2	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		PSB1-RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE WEEK2		3
1, 2, 3	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2, 3	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2, 3	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2, 3	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1, 2, 3	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		SGISI - UNIT 2 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
2	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		PSB1-RP - RP-OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE		3
1, 2, 3	11/18/2013 11/22/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2, 3	11/18/2013 11/22/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	11/18/2013 11/22/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2, 3	11/18/2013 11/22/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2, 3	11/18/2013 11/22/2013	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1, 2, 3	11/18/2013 11/22/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	

Comments:

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