



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

October 23, 2012

Mr. Preston Gillespie
Site Vice President
Oconee Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672-0752

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3, CLARIFICATION OF
RELIEF GRANTED FOR RELIEF REQUEST 09-GO-001 (TAC NOS. ME0962,
ME0963, AND ME0964)

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

By letter dated February 24, 2009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML090890782), as supplemented by letter August 27, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML092520032), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy, the licensee), sent relief request (RR) 09-GO-001 to the NRC staff for approval. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff (NRC) approved RR 09-GO-001 by letter dated February 17, 2010 (ADAMS Accession No. ML100471112). After Duke Energy reviewed the safety evaluation (SE) associated with the NRC staff approval of RR 09-GO-001, it determined that clarification of the SE was needed prior to using RR 09-GO-001 and sent a letter dated January 23, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12030A089), requesting clarification from the NRC staff in writing.

Specifically, Duke Energy requested clarification of Section 4.0 of the SE. In this section, the NRC staff stated that "the licensee will also perform a visual examination of the ground surface areas above buried components to detect any evidence of through-wall leakage." Duke Energy's understanding of RR 09-GO-001 is that the visual examinations described in its proposed alternative do not apply to components that are encased in concrete or are located beneath the foundations of plant structures.

The NRC staff has reviewed this issue and confirms that the visual examinations described in the proposed alternative in RR 09-GO-001 do not apply to components that are encased in concrete or are located beneath the foundations of plant structures.

P. Gillespie

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Boska". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

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

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

P. Gillespie

- 2 -

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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

Enclosure:
As stated

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* Via email

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