



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

December 18, 2012

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

**SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION – 05000269/2013301, 05000270/2013301, and
05000287/2013301**

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

In a conversation on December 10, 2012, between Mr. Louis Nowell, NRC Exam Team Supervisor 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 June 10, 2013. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of June 17, 2013. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of May 20, 2013.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will prepare the written examination and your staff will prepare the operating test based on the guidelines in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the written examination during the week of April 1, 2013. The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes to the operating test that might be necessary before the tests are administered. Your staff has also agreed to make copies of all examination materials that are necessary for administering the examination.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201, including your exam banks, by December 31, 2012. The operating test outline will be due by March 26, 2013 and the operating tests will be due by April 25, 2013. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outline 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. Nowell 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: Gerald.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. Nowell 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: Gerald.Laska@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4550, (Internet E-mail: Malcolm.Widmann@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

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

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 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	12/18/2012	12/18/2012					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc:

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(cc cont'd – See page 5)

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Seneca, SC 29672-0752

Letter to T. Preston Gillespie, Jr. from Malcolm T. Widmann dated December 18, 2012

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