



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

February 13, 2013

Mr. and Mrs. David Nett  
105 Crooked Stick Court  
Sunset, SC 29685

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nett:

This letter is in response to your letter dated December 30, 2012, to Chairman Macfarlane, regarding Duke Power Company's Disregard for the Citizens of Pickens and Oconee County. In your letter, you expressed your concern about the possibility that Duke Power Company might lower the water level in Lake Keowee by five feet, and the negative effect this could have on waterfront lots and property values.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is the federal agency that regulates the commercial use of nuclear material in the United States. As part of our mission, we ensure that commercial nuclear reactors are operated in a manner that protects public health and safety. We regulate the three Oconee Nuclear Station reactors that are located on the shore of Lake Keowee. We have previously evaluated the effect of low lake levels on those nuclear reactors and concluded that they can continue to operate safely as long as the level of Lake Keowee exceeds 791 feet above mean sea level. If Lake Keowee goes below that value, and it is not restored within three days, the reactors must be placed in cold shutdown. However, your concerns are with lake levels in the range of 790 feet to 800 feet. Please be advised that the operational levels in Lake Keowee are regulated by a different federal agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Duke Energy holds the FERC license to operate Lake Keowee, and will be applying for a renewal of this license. For the management of lake levels, we suggest you send your comments to FERC for their consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Pascarelli".

Robert J. Pascarelli, Chief  
Plant Licensing Branch II-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

cc: Distribution via Listserv

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*/RA/*

Robert J. Pascarelli, Chief  
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