

February 16, 1999

Mr. W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Energy Corporation
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, SC 29679

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST- EVALUATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ASME BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE SECTION XI REQUIREMENTS FOR POST-TENSIONING SYSTEMS OF CONCRETE CONTAINMENTS - OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS. MA1766, MA1767, AND MA1768)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

By letter dated May 6, 1998, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke), submitted Request for Relief No. 98-ONS-0002 seeking relief from the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code) (ASME Code), Section XI, Subsection IWL, for the Oconee Nuclear Station (Oconee), Units 1, 2, and 3. By letter dated September 16, 1998, Duke responded to an NRC's Request for Additional Information and additional clarification information was supplied by letter dated January 21, 1999.

Based on the review of the information provided in the submittals, the staff has concluded that the alternatives proposed in lieu of IWL-2421 of Subsection IWL of Section XI of the ASME Code provide an acceptable level of quality and safety for the inservice inspection at Oconee. Therefore, the alternative is authorized pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

Enclosed is the staff's Safety Evaluation (SE) and its attached Technical Evaluation Report that was prepared by our consultant, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Sincerely,
Original signed by:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001
February 16, 1999

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Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Energy Corporation
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, SC 29679

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herbert N. Berkow".

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Oconee Nuclear Station

cc:

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