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SUBJECT: Application for amends to licenses DPR-38, DPR-47 & DPR-55, adding note to ITS LCO 3.9.3 b to allow emergency air lock door to be sealed with temporary cover plate during fuel movement.

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W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President

March 1, 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287
License Amendment Request Regarding Containment
Closure During Refueling Operations
Request for Technical Specification Amendment 99-03

Pursuant to 10 CFR 59.90, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) hereby requests an amendment to the Improved Technical Specifications (ITS) for Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS). ITS 3.9.3 requires that one door on the personnel and emergency air locks be closed during fuel movement. Existing practices allow for the emergency air lock to be sealed by a temporary cover plate which contains penetrations for outage related cables and services such as Steam Generator eddy current testing cables. This practice conflicts with ITS and is addressed in LER 269/98-16. This proposed license amendment requests that a note be added to ITS LCO 3.9.3 b to allow the emergency air lock door to be sealed with a temporary cover plate. The problems associated with the current practice require resolution prior to the upcoming Unit 1 refueling outage, scheduled to start in May of 1999.

The revised Technical Specification pages are included in Attachment 1. Attachment 2 contains the markup of the existing Technical Specification pages. The Technical Justification for the amendment request is included in Attachment 3. Attachments 4 and 5 contain the No Significant Hazards Consideration Evaluation and the Environmental Impact Analysis, respectively.

This proposed change to the Technical Specifications has been reviewed and approved by the Plant Operations Review Committee and Nuclear Safety Review Board. Implementation of these changes will not result in an undue risk to the health and

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

March 1, 1999

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safety of the public. In addition, the Oconee Updated Final Safety Analysis Report has been reviewed and no changes are necessary to support this amendment request.

Approval of this proposed Technical Specification Amendment is requested by May 20, 1999, to support the Unit 1 refueling outage.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91, a copy of this proposed amendment is being sent to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for review, and as deemed necessary and appropriate, subsequent consultation with the NRC staff.

If there are any additional questions, please call Reene' Gambrell at (864) 885-3364.

Very truly yours,



W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Site Vice President
Oconee Nuclear Site

Attachments

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
March 1, 1999
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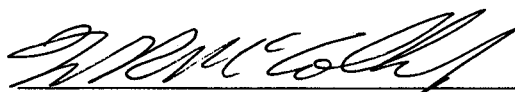
cc: Mr. L. A. Reyes
Regional Administrator, Region II

Mr. M. A. Scott
Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. D. E. LaBarge
ONRR, Project Manager

Mr. V. R. Autry
DHEC

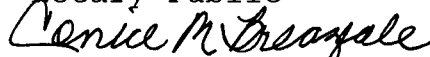
W. R. McCollum, being duly sworn, states that he is Vice President of Duke Energy Corporation, that he is authorized on the part of said Company to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this revision to the Oconee Nuclear Station License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55; and that all statements and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.



W. R. McCollum, Vice President

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of March, 1999.

Notary Public



My Commission Expires:

2-12-2003