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SUBJECT: Application for amends to licenses DPR-38, DPR-47 & DPR-55, revising limit in TS 2.1.1.1 for max local fuel pin centerline temp.

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W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President

May 24, 1999

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

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287
Proposed Revision to Technical Specification 2.1.1,
Reactor Core Safety Limits
Technical Specification Change No. 99-05

Pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Section 90 (10 CFR 50.90), Duke Energy proposes to amend Appendix A, Technical Specifications, for Facility Operating Licenses DPR-38, DPR-47 and DPR-55 for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3.

This proposed change revises the limit in Technical Specification 2.1.1.1 for maximum local fuel pin centerline temperature. The new limit, that is associated with use of the TACO3 code, has been revised because code uncertainties are accounted for differently using TACO3 to calculate fuel centerline temperatures.

The new limit is the value contained in the TACO3 topical report (BAW-10162P-A, "TACO3-Fuel Pin Thermal Analysis Computer Code"). TACO3 was approved for use by Duke in an SER dated April 3, 1995 (H. M. Berkow, USNRC to M. S. Tuckman, DPC). Approval was granted based on an audit of Duke's application of the methodology discussed in the TACO3 topical report. Since the methodology has been approved for use by the NRC, the proposed Technical Specification change is considered administrative.

Approval of this amendment is requested by October 31, 1999, with an effective date of 30 days after issuance. The need to revise the ONS Technical Specifications safety limit was identified in January 1997. However, as a result of an administrative oversight, the amendment request was not processed in a timely manner. Regardless, operation of the Oconee units has been maintained within the appropriate safety limit by use of an appropriately established Reactor Protective System (RPS) setpoint. RPS setpoints, which serve to protect the safety limit by preventing core operating conditions from exceeding the

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safety limit, were established for applicable cycles (past, present and future) in such a manner as to preclude exceeding the existing safety limit for fuel analyzed using the TACO2 computer code or the proposed safety limit for fuel analyzed using the TACO3 computer code. In addition, analyses with TACO3 and the fuel melt equation given in the existing safety limit have verified that the RPS setpoints are conservative and have ensured protection against fuel melt.

This proposed change to the Facility Operating License has been evaluated and has been determined to involve no significant hazards considerations. This proposed change and the determination of no significant hazards have been reviewed by our Plant Operations Review Committee (PORC) and the Nuclear Safety Review Board (NSRB). It has been concluded that implementation of these changes will not result in an undue risk to the health and safety of the public. Use of the TACO3 computer code is appropriately addressed in the Oconee UFSAR. Therefore, no UFSAR change is required.

Attachment 1 provides the proposed new page. Attachment 2 provides the markup of the existing specification page. The markup page identifies the added and deleted portions. Attachment 3 provides a description of the changes and the supporting technical justification. Attachments 4 and 5 contain the No Significant Hazards Consideration Evaluation and the Environmental Impact Analysis, respectively.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91, a copy of this proposed amendment is being sent to the appropriate State of South Carolina officials.

If there are any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Ed Burchfield at 864-885-3292.

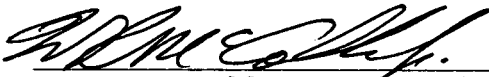
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W. R. McCollum, Jr., Site Vice President
Oconee Nuclear Site

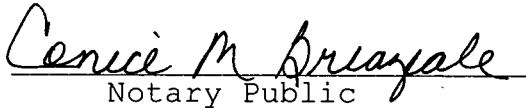
Attachments

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



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

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24 day of
May, 1999



Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

2-12-2003