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June 30, 1999

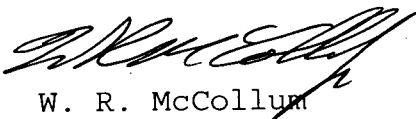
Director,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Site
Docket No. 72-04
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
Changes, Tests, and Experiments

Attached are descriptions of changes, tests, and experiments completed subject to the provisions of 10 CFR 72.48 for the Oconee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) between January 1, 1998, and December 31, 1998. This report is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 72.48(b)(2).

If there are any questions, please contact Edwin Price at (864) 885-4388.

Very truly yours,



W. R. McCollum

Attachment

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE
INSTALLATION (ISFSI) MODIFICATIONS

DESCRIPTION

SYSTEM: ISFSI Security

This 10CFR 72.48 safety evaluation supports NSM ON-52931, which upgraded the ISFSI security system. Power to the security system was moved from retail to the Standby Shutdown Facility, communications to the security computer were changed from copper to fiber, card readers were added, and the microwave system was upgraded. The affected sections were modified as appropriate to reflect the changes in the security system.

SAFETY EVALUATION SUMMARY

The security modification is an upgrade and enhancement. These changes do not in any way increase the likelihood of initiation, or adversely affect the mitigation of, any ISFSI SAR described accidents. There is no increase in the consequences of any ISFSI SAR described accident. There is no adverse affect on any ISFSI SSC, and no increase in the probability of a malfunction of equipment important to safety. No new radiological release pathways or failure modes are created. No ISFSI SSCs are degraded. This activity also has no effect on any margins of safety as previously evaluated in the ISFSI SAR. There is no increase in occupational radiation exposure and no environmental impact. The system remains non-effluent. No USQs are involved with either the modification or the corresponding ISFSI UFSAR changes, and no ISFSI Technical Specification changes are required. The plant site specific ISFSI UFSAR sections 3.1.2.1, 4.4.5, and 8.2.6.2 and the ISFSI security plan were revised, accordingly.

INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE
INSTALLATION (ISFSI) MODIFICATIONS

DESCRIPTION

SYSTEM: Transport Cask

This 10CFR 72.48 safety evaluation supports the changes described in ECN# DUK-03-3001-1-2, DUK-03-3002-1-2, and DUK-03-3003-1-2. The modifications (1) added pressure relief valves to the bottom neutron shield plug and exterior neutron shielding jacket of the transfer cask, (2) added pour holes to the exterior neutron shield support ring top for the pouring of the BISCO NS-3 material into the neutron shield cavity during fabrication, and (3) corrected the relief set pressure from 45 to 50 psig.

SAFETY EVALUATION SUMMARY

The pressure relief valves provide overpressure protection for the BISCO NS-3 solid shielding material in the bottom shield plug and exterior neutron shield jacket. The pressure relief valves are a safety feature. This change does not in any way increase the likelihood of initiation, or adversely affect the mitigation of, any ISFSI SAR described accidents. There is no increase in the consequences of any ISFSI SAR described accident. There is no adverse affect on any ISFSI SSC, and no increase in the probability of a malfunction of equipment important to safety. No new radiological release pathways or failure modes are created. No ISFSI SSCs are degraded. This activity also has no effect on any margins of safety as previously evaluated in the ISFSI SAR. There is no increase in occupational radiation exposure and no environmental impact. The system remains non-effluent. No USQs are involved with this change, and no ISFSI Technical Specification changes are required. The plant ISFSI UFSAR section 4.3.2.1 was revised, accordingly.

INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION (ISFSI) MODIFICATIONS

DESCRIPTION

SYSTEM: Dry Storage Canister (DSC)

This 10CFR 72.48 safety evaluation supports the changes described in TNW/RANOR Supplier Disposition Request and Non-Conformance Report (NCR) #1061. The vendor's fabrication of a DSC cover fillet weld deviates slightly from the design requirements in that it was made slightly smaller than specified. The particular welds are used to eliminate a potential stress riser at the grapple ring/outer bottom cover interface.

SAFETY EVALUATION SUMMARY

The affected weld is non-structural and no credit is taken for it in the structural or accident analyses. TNW has evaluated similar deviations as acceptable for its General License type DSCs used under CofC-1004. This change does not in any way increase the likelihood of initiation, or adversely affect the mitigation of, any ISFSI SAR described accidents. There is no increase in the consequences of any ISFSI SAR described accident. There is no adverse affect on any ISFSI SSC, and no increase in the probability of a malfunction of equipment important to safety. No new radiological release pathways or failure modes are created. This activity also has no effect on any margins of safety as previously evaluated in the ISFSI SAR. There is no increase in occupational radiation exposure and no environmental impact. The system remains non-effluent. No USQs are involved with this change, and no ISFSI Technical Specification or UFSAR changes are required.

INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION (ISFSI) MODIFICATIONS

DESCRIPTION

SYSTEM: ISFSI Horizontal Storage Modules (HSMs)

This 10CFR 72.48 safety evaluation supports loading the first eight standardized NUHOMS-24P General License (GL) design HSMs for the ISFSI Phase III expansion. The new GL HSMs permit greater fuel storage acceptance/flexibility due to increased heat rejection capacity and modular design. The new HSMs utilize the same basic dry storage canister (DSC) design and transport/loading equipment as the existing site specific system (Phases I and II). The two distinct dry storage systems employ the same fuel handling, welding, and transport equipment, DSC design, and reside on the same site location.

SAFETY EVALUATION SUMMARY

The use of the NRC approved GL System ISFSI design is governed by the requirements of the associated CofC-1004, CSAR, and SER. Although some of the license conditions may differ between the existing site specific and the new GL systems, there is no conflict since each system is treated as a separate entity, both procedurally and in licensing space. Both dry storage systems have separate controlling procedures. Loading of the new HSMs does not in any way increase the likelihood of initiation, or adversely affect the mitigation of, any ISFSI SAR described accidents. There is no increase in the consequences of any ISFSI SAR described accident. There is no adverse affect on any ISFSI SSC, and no increase in the probability of a malfunction of equipment important to safety. No new radiological release pathways or failure modes are created. This activity also has no effect on any margins of safety as previously evaluated in the ISFSI SAR. There is no increase in occupational radiation exposure and no environmental impact. The system remains non-effluent. No USQs are involved with this change, and no ISFSI Technical Specification or UFSAR changes are required.