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SUBJECT: Submits supplemental response to GL 96-06, "Assurance of Equipment Operabililty & Containment Integrity During Design-Basis Conditions." Delay of commitments,discussed.

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Vice President

May 28, 1998

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, 50-287
Supplemental Response to Generic Letter 96-06:
Assurance of Equipment Operability and Containment Integrity During Design-Basis Conditions
Delay of Commitment

Generic Letter(GL) 96-06, "Assurance of Equipment Operability and Containment Integrity During Design Basis Conditions", was issued on September 30, 1996. GL 96-06 requested licensees to determine if containment air cooler cooling water systems are susceptible to either waterhammer or two-phase flow conditions during postulated accident conditions and to determine if piping systems that penetrate containment are susceptible to thermal expansion of fluid that could lead to overpressurization of piping. Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) responded to GL 96-06 in submittals to the NRC dated October 29, 1996, January 28, 1997, April 15, 1997, June 30, 1997, August 1, 1997, and October 30, 1997.

In the August 1, 1997 submittal, Duke stated that an evaluation was in progress on two independent methods for prediction of conditions within the Low Pressure Service Water (LPSW) system. That evaluation has now been completed and the process of generating force time histories is being finalized. The resulting structural analysis of the subject piping system and attendant support structures is in progress.

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In the August 1, 1997 submittal, Duke also provided expected completion dates for the various action items needed to close this issue. In Action Item 13, Duke committed to complete the review of Unit 3 piping and hanger loads based on force time histories and determine if code allowables have been exceeded with all Reactor Building Auxiliary Coolers (RBAC) valved in and all RBAC fans on. Due to the complexities involved in generation of the appropriate force time histories, structural analysis of the piping and attendant support structures has been delayed. Preliminary structural analysis work continues to support operability of the Reactor Building Cooling Units (RBCU) and the RBACU's.

Confirmation of the conclusions regarding operability of the Unit 3 LPSW system with the RBAC's valved in and all RBAC fans on is scheduled for August 1, 1998. Duke believes the delay is prudent based on the complexities of the issue. In addition, Duke plans to participate in a joint NRC/NEI GL 96-06 conference which is scheduled for May 27-28, 1998. This conference will likely address a number of issues associated with waterhammer analyses. As a result, the insights gained from this conference may affect the schedule for completion of the structural analysis.

Please address any questions to D. A. Nix at (864) 885-3634.

Very truly yours,

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