



Duke Energy Corporation

Oconee Nuclear Station

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W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President

September 16, 1998

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

Subject: Duke Power Company
Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, and -287
Third Ten Year Inservice Inspection Interval
Request for Relief No. 98-03

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5)(iii), attached is a Request for Relief from ASME Section XI, 1989 Edition, with no addenda. This request is to allow Duke Power to take credit for limited ultrasonic examinations on specific Pressurizer Sensing Nozzle-to-Vessel welds. During examination of the subject Unit 2 welds, the ultrasonic examination coverages did not meet the 90% examination requirements of ASME Section XI. Achievement of greater than 90% examination coverage for these welds is impractical due to piping/vessel geometry, interferences, and existing examination technology. Duke has determined that alternate radiographic examination is not a viable option. Duke proposes to use pressure tests in conjunction with VT-2 visual examinations to compliment the limited examination coverage. All three Oconee units are addressed by this Request for Relief per recommendations delineated in NRC Inspection Report 95-05, dated May 5, 1995.

A copy of this request was included in the Unit 2 End of Cycle 16 Inservice Inspection Report submitted August 19, 1998. However, it is Duke Power's intention to submit Requests for Relief as individual submittals to assure that they receive the appropriate attention and review. Therefore, we are submitting this request for review and approval at this time.

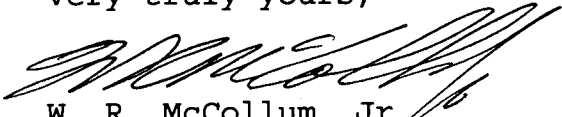
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If there are any questions or further information is needed you may contact R. P. Todd at (864) 885-3418.

Very truly yours,



W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Site Vice President

Attachments

xc (w/attch): Mr. D. E. LaBarge, Project Manager
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Mr. L. A. Reyes
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