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SUBJECT: Provides further addl info re NRC Bulletin 96-04, "Chemical, Galvanic, or Other Reactions Spent Fuel Storage & Transportation Casks," per 971205 ltr.

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December 31, 1997

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
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Subject: Oconee Nuclear Site  
Docket Nos. 72-04, 50-269, -270, -287  
Bulletin 96-04, "Chemical, Galvanic, or Other Reactions  
Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation Casks"  
Request for Additional Information

In a letter dated August 19, 1996, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) responded to NRC Bulletin 96-04, "Chemical, Galvanic, or Other Reactions Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation Casks". In a letter dated April 8, 1997, the NRC staff requested additional information from Duke regarding NRC Bulletin 96-04. That additional information was provided by Duke in a letter dated November 3, 1997. In a letter dated December 5, 1997, the NRC staff requested further additional information from Duke regarding NRC Bulletin 96-04. That additional information is provided in this letter and attachment.

If there are further questions about this item, please contact Ed Price at (864) 885-4388.

Very truly yours,

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

*AUG 8*

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Decemeber 31, 1997

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ATTACHMENT  
Response to NRC Bulletin 96-04 RAI

The NRC has asserted that the vapor space of dry storage canisters (DSC) coated with flame-sprayed aluminum should be monitored continuously, rather than periodically, during welding or cutting to ensure that the hydrogen concentration does not exceed 2.4% by volume. To ensure continuous monitoring is performed, the NRC requests that the licensee revise loading and unloading procedures to include continuous monitoring of the DSC vapor space during welding, grinding, or cutting operations.

Duke Power agrees to revise its DSC loading (MP/0/A/1500/007 & MP/0/A/1500/016) and DSC unloading (MP/0/A/1500/015 & MP/0/A/1500/017) procedures to include provisions for continuous monitoring of the vapor space of DSC's coated with flame-sprayed aluminum for hydrogen. For the loading procedures, this continuous monitoring will be conducted during any welding, grinding or cutting until the DSC is sealed. For the unloading procedures, continuous monitoring will be done during any welding, grinding or cutting once the interior of the DSC has been breached.

Duke Power also agrees to complete these procedure changes prior to either loading or unloading any DSC's in the future.