

CATEGORY 1

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ACCESSION NBR: 9907270202	DOC. DATE: 99/07/20	NOTARIZED: NO	DOCKET #
FACIL: 50-269	Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1,	Duke Power Co.	05000269
50-270	Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2,	Duke Power Co.	05000270
50-287	Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3,	Duke Power Co.	05000287
50-369	William B. McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 1,	Duke Powe	05000369
50-370	William B. McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2,	Duke Powe	05000370
50-413	Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1,	Duke Power Co.	05000413
50-414	Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2,	Duke Power Co.	05000414

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RECIP. NAME	RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
	Records Management Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Informs that Duke proposes to fully comply with requirements of Section XI of ASME Code or comply with new conditions of RG 1.147, Rev 12 by May 1, 2000. Duke will continue to test applicable structures/sys/components IAW current program.

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M. S. Tuckman
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation

July 20, 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: Duke Energy Corporation

Oconee Nuclear Station - Units 1, 2, & 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

McGuire Nuclear Station - Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370

Catawba Nuclear Station - Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

Alternative to the Requirements of the ASME Boiler
and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI
Duke Energy Corporation Serial Number 94-GO-002
TAC Nos. M89750, M89751, M89752, M89753, M89754,
M89755, and M89756

On June 22, 1994, Duke Energy Corporation requested NRC approval to use an alternative to the requirements of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. In this letter, Duke requested NRC approval to use Code Case N-522 on Oconee Units 1, 2 and 3; McGuire Units 1 and 2; and Catawba Units 1 and 2.

Subsequently, the NRC approved Duke's use of Code Case N-522 for McGuire and Catawba in letters/safety evaluations dated February 17, 1995; and for Oconee in a letter/safety evaluation dated May 22, 1995. These NRC documents placed no immediate restrictions on Duke's use of Code Case N-522.

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However, the NRC letters for McGuire and Catawba stated that the alternative testing was authorized until such time as the Code Case was published in a future revision of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147. At that time, any limitations issued in the revised RG 1.147 applicable to Code Case N-522 should be implemented by Duke.

Recently, Revision 12 of RG 1.147, dated May 1999, was issued by the NRC. Revision 12 contains a condition applicable to the use of Code Case N-522. This condition states that testing should be conducted at the peak calculated containment pressure and the test procedure should permit the detection and location of through-wall leakage in containment isolation valves (CIVs) and pipe segments between CIVs. Duke has reviewed this new condition and determined it will have a significant impact on its Appendix J/ISI Programs. Duke currently does not comply with this condition. Implementation of this new condition will require revisions to numerous procedures and the reorientation of the plants' inspection/testing personnel resources. Consequently, in regard to the applicable inspection/testing activities, Duke proposes to fully comply with the requirements of Section XI of the ASME Code or comply with the new conditions of RG 1.147, Revision 12 by May 1, 2000. This is considered a reasonable amount of time to complete the actions necessary to implement these new requirements at Oconee, McGuire, and Catawba. In the interim, Duke will continue to test the applicable structures/systems/components in accordance with its current NRC-approved program.

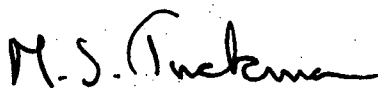
Within this letter, Duke makes the following commitment: In regard to the implementation of ASME Code Case N-522, the applicable inspection/testing activities will either be performed in full compliance with the requirements of Section XI of the ASME Code, or will comply with the new N-522 conditions of RG 1.147, Revision 12, by May 1, 2000.

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Duke Energy Corporation requests that the NRC review the commitment described above and provide Duke with a timely response advising if it is found to be acceptable.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to J. S. Warren at (704) 382-4986.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. S. Tuckman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

M. S. Tuckman

MST/JSW

Attachment

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xc w/att:

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