



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 2, 1999

Mr. W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Energy Corporation
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, SC 29679

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 RE: CLOSEOUT OF
GENERIC LETTER 96-05, "PERIODIC VERIFICATION OF DESIGN-BASES
CAPABILITY OF SAFETY-RELATED MOTOR-OPERATED VALVES,"
(TAC NOS. M97075, M97076, AND M97077)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

On September 18, 1996, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 96-05, "Periodic Verification of Design-Basis Capability of Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valves." The GL requested that each nuclear power plant licensee establish a program or ensure the effectiveness of its current program, and verify on a periodic basis that safety-related motor-operated valves (MOVs) continue to be capable of performing their safety functions within the current licensing bases of the facility.

On November 14, 1996, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) submitted a 60-day response to GL 96-05 notifying the NRC that it would implement the requested MOV periodic verification program at the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. On March 17, 1997, Duke submitted a 180-day response to the GL that provided a summary description of the MOV periodic verification program planned to be implemented at Oconee. By letter dated March 31, 1998, Duke updated its commitment to GL 96-05. By letter dated May 24, 1999, Duke responded to a request for additional information on this issue dated February 16, 1999.

The staff has reviewed these submittals and applicable NRC inspection reports as explained in the enclosed safety evaluation (SE). The staff understands that Duke's commitment to implement the Joint Owners Group (JOG) Program on MOV Periodic Verification includes all three phases of that program. We request that Duke notify the NRC if its commitment does not include all three JOG program phases.

Based on this understanding of the commitment, the staff finds that Duke has established an acceptable program to periodically verify the design-basis capability of the safety-related MOVs at the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. Therefore, the staff concludes that the actions requested in GL 96-05 have been adequately addressed at Oconee. The NRC staff may conduct inspections at Oconee to verify that implementation of the MOV periodic verification program is in accordance with Duke's commitments, the attached SE, the NRC SE dated October 30, 1997 (on the JOG Program on MOV Periodic Verification), and the NRC SE

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dated April 14, 1998 (on the Westinghouse Owners Group methodology for ranking MOVs by their safety significance as applied by Duke for this Babcock & Wilcox-design plant).

This action closes TAC Nos. M97075, M97076, and M97077.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

David E. LaBarge, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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W. R. McCollum, Jr.

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David E. LaBarge, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
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cc w/encl: See next page

Oconee Nuclear Station

cc:

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