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SUBJECT: Requests approval IAW 10CFR50.55a(a)(3), to use alternative rules of ASME Section IX Code Cases 2142-1 & 2143-1 in lieu of currently required welding mats.

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August 6, 1999

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

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287
Use of ASME Section IX Code Cases 2142-1 and 2143-1

Reference: Letter, D.B. Matthews (NRC) to G. Grier (Duke),
"Request to use Alternative Weld Materials in
the Fabrication and Installation of Replacement
Steam Generators For McGuire Nuclear Station,
Units 1 and 2, and Catawba Nuclear Station,
Unit 1," dated July 20, 1993.

The purpose of this letter is to request approval in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), to use the alternative rules of ASME Section IX Code Cases 2142-1 and 2143-1 in lieu of the currently required welding materials. The use of weld filler materials most like Alloy 690 in composition is necessary in the fabrication and installation of the replacement once through steam generators for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. These materials have been approved by ASME through Code Cases 2142-1 and 2143-1 and are designated as UNS N06052 and UNS W86152, respectively. Use of these welding materials has been previously approved by the NRC for use in the fabrication of replacement steam generators as indicated in the referenced letter.

ASME approved Code Cases 2142-1 and 2143-1 on June 5, 1995, and reaffirmed their use again on July 22, 1998. These welding materials are classified as F-No. 43 for both weld procedure and performance qualification purposes. UNS W86152 is the matching Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) electrode for Alloy 690 and UNS N06052 is the companion bare filler metal. These weld materials have been shown in EPRI studies

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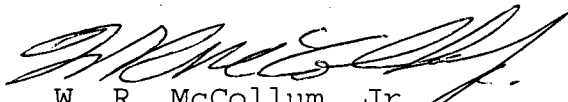
to provide superior corrosion resistance weldments and are the preferred choice for welding applications. They provide an acceptable level of quality and safety because of their superior corrosion resistant properties.

The fabrication schedule for the Oconee replacement steam generators requires the use of these weld materials beginning in October, 1999. Duke Energy Corporation requests approval for the use of Code Cases 2142-1 and 2143-1 by October 1, 1999.

It is anticipated that NRC approval for at least one other Code Case will be requested. Usage of any such Code Cases will be later in the fabrication process than those requested above. Any subsequent requests will be promptly submitted as soon as usage of the Code Case(s) is confirmed.

If there are any questions, please contact Robert Sharpe at (704) 382-0956.

Very truly yours,



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USNRC Document Control Desk
August 6, 1999

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