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SUBJECT: Informs that util has re-performed cladding stress analysis to include wall thinning associated with cladding corrosion contained in BAW-10186P-A.

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August 25, 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

Duke Energy Corporation's Use of FCF's Extended Burnup Evaluation Topical Report, BAW-10186P-A

REFERENCE: 1. Framatome Cogema Fuels, Extended Burnup Evaluation, BAW-10186P-A, June 1997.

2. B&W Fuel Company, Safety Criteria and Methodology for Acceptable Cycle Reload Analyses, BAW-10179-A, August 1993.

By letter dated March 1, 1999, the NRC approved Duke Energy Corporation's use of FCF's topical report (Reference 1) on high burnup fuel for Oconee Nuclear Station. Duke has completed its review of the safety evaluation contained in the above NRC letter that was sent to Duke, as well as all commitments in the referenced topical report. In so doing, Duke has re-performed its cladding stress analysis to be consistent with these commitments. Duke is hereby informing the NRC that the Duke cladding stress analysis has been re-performed to the new requirement of Reference 1, specifically to include the wall thinning associated with cladding corrosion (Section 2.3.1.1 of Reference 1), including the use of Sm = 2/3 of the minimum specified unirradiated yield strength at operating temperature 650F

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(Section 4.2.5.1 of Reference 2). This is the only change necessary to meet the commitments of BAW-10186 and is consistent with FCF's NRC approved cladding stress analysis methodology.

Within this letter, Duke commits to use this methodology for all Oconee Nuclear Station fuel clad with Zircaloy-4 ,as approved in the NRC safety evaluation letter mentioned above, beginning with Oconee 3 Cycle 19 (scheduled to begin operation in Spring 2000), and continue with all subsequent fuel cycles.

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

Very truly yours,

M. S. Tuckman

MST/JSW

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