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50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co. 05000287

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Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Responds to NRC 980325 ltr re violations noted in insp repts
50-269/98-04, 50-270/98-04 & 50-287/98-04. Corrective actions:
process has been initiated that requires 2 individuals to
verify that safeguards containers are secured after opened.

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April 23, 1998

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

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Site
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287
Inspection Report 50-269, -270, -287/98-04
Reply to Notice of Violation

Gentlemen:

By letter dated March 25, 1998, the NRC issued a Notice of Violation as described in Inspection Report No. 50-269/98-04, 50-270/98-04, and 50-287/98-04.

Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) accepts this violation. As described in the attachment, Duke is proposing a corrective action to address the root cause of the violation.

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, the attachment provides a written response to the violation as identified in the subject Inspection Report.

The corrective action in Section 3 of this response is the only regulatory commitment in this submittal.

Very truly yours,

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

Attachment

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NRC Document Control Desk
April 23, 1998
Page 2

cc: Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II

Mr. D. E. LaBarge, Project Manager
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. M. A. Scott
Senior Resident Inspector
Oconee Nuclear Site

Attachment 1
Reply to Notice of Violation (Reply)
Violation 98-04-01

Restatement of the Violation

The Code of Federal Regulations 73.21 requires that, "While unattended, Safeguards Information shall be stored in a locked security storage container".

Duke Power Nuclear System Directive 206, "Safeguards and Information Control", requires that Safeguards Information be stored within approved containers when not under the control of an authorized person.

Contrary to the above, on March 3, 1998, the licensee failed to properly secure Safeguards Information in a locked security storage container. Specifically, an employee left the Engineering Safeguards Work Area unattended and did not lock a safeguards container within the area. This resulted in the safeguards container not being secured on 3/3/98 between 1709 and 1729 hours.

This is a Severity-Level IV violation and is a repeat violation (NCV 50-269, 270, and 287/97-12-06) as cited in Inspection Report 97-12, dated October 6, 1997.

Response

Duke accepts the violation.

1. The reason for the violation:

The root cause of this violation was the failure to apply the self-checking process when leaving the work area at the end of the work day. Specifically, an employee: (1) indicated on the "Container Access Log" that the container was "closed"; (2) left the second drawer of the container open approximately five inches; (3) left the magnetic "Open/Closed" sign as "Open"; (4) failed to conduct self-checking practices to ensure the container was locked when securing the container; and (5) failed to conduct self-checking practices to ensure that all containers were secure immediately prior to leaving the work area.

As part of the corrective actions for a previous event of a similar nature in the Engineering Safeguards Work Area on August 14, 1997, (PIP 97-2396), a roped off area was added at the egress point from the area. This rope barrier serves

Attachment 1
Reply to Notice of Violation (Reply)
Violation 98-04-01

as a final reminder for personnel to conduct the self-checking (STAR) process, ensuring that Safeguards Information is properly controlled or locked in designated containers, immediately prior to exiting the area. This corrective action would have prevented the recurrence of a similar second event in the Engineering Safeguards Work Area had the self-checking process been properly utilized.

2. The corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved:

- a) A process has been initiated that requires two individuals to verify that safeguards containers are secured after a safeguard container has been opened. On March 4, 1998, this requirement was verbally emphasized, by the "Site Safeguards Administrator," to the seven engineering personnel who are authorized access to safeguards containers in the Engineering Safeguards Work Area.
- b) The employee involved has been counseled by his supervisor.

3. The corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations:

A procedure change will formally implement the requirement to independently verify that safeguards containers are secured after a safeguard container has been opened. This corrective step will be completed by June 1, 1998.

This action will be tracked in PIP 98-1025.

4. The date when full compliance will be achieved.

Duke is now in full compliance.