September 10, 1992

Docket No. 50-287

Mr. J. W. Hampton
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, South Carolina 29697

Dear Mr. Hampton:

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST NO. 92-11 - SAFETY EVALUATION, OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION 3 (TAC NO. M84083)

By letter dated July 14, 1992, you submitted Relief Request No. 92-11 from ASME Code requirements for hydrostatic testing of Weld 3-03A-15-32 on repaired Valve 3FDW-345 between the 3A Steam Generator and the Emergency Feedwater System.

The NRC staff has reviewed your relief request and your proposed alternative testing of the welds. Our evaluation is enclosed. We find that an additional hydrostatic test, beyond the requirements of the normal hydrostatic test cycle, is unusually difficult because of the considerable practical difficulties involved and the unnecessary stresses to which the steam generator system would be subjected. Your proposed alternative to hydrostatic testing (100% radiography and VT-2 inspection of the welds at normal operating temperature and pressure) would provide assurance of the integrity of the welds and their ability to remain leak-tight at normal operating conditions. Therefore, your proposed alternative is acceptable.

Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), your proposed alternative to hydrostatic testing is authorized. The NRC staff has determined that the proposed alternative testing provides an acceptable level of quality and safety and that compliance with the code would result in an undue burden without a compensatory increase in the level of quality of safety.

Sincerely,

original signed by Leonard A. Wiens
David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

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OCONEE RELIEF REQUEST 92-11

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

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Sincerely,

David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
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cc w/enclosure:
See next page

cc:
Mr. A. V. Carr, Esquire
Duke Power Company
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242-0001

J. Michael McGarry, III, Esquire
Winston and Strawn
1400 L Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20005

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Division
Suite 525
1700 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Manager, LIS
NUS Corporation
2650 McCormick Drive, 3rd Floor
Clearwater, Florida 34619-1035

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 2, Box 610
Seneca, South Carolina 29678

Regional Administrator, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, NW. Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. Heyward G. Shealy, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Office of Intergovernmental Relations
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

County Supervisor of Oconee County
Walhalla, South Carolina 29621

Mr. M. E. Patrick
Compliance
Duke Power Company
Oconee Nuclear Site
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, South Carolina 29679

Mr. Alan R. Herdt, Chief
Project Branch #3
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, NW. Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Ms. Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of
Justice
P. O. Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. R. L. Gill, Jr.
Licensing
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1007
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1007