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 FACIL: 50-269 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Duke Power Co. 05000269  
 50-270 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Duke Power Co. 05000270  
~~50-289 Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Metropolitan 05000289~~  
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 RECIP. NAME NOVAK, T.M. RECIPIENT AFFILIATION Assistant Director for Operating Reactors

50-287

SUBJECT: Responds to NRC request for assessment of plant power supply situation re temporary mod of OL, allowing operation above 60%. Recommends granting mod to assure continuity of svc.

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Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20461

AUG 5 1980

Mr. Thomas M. Novak  
Director for Operating Reactors  
Division of Licensing  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Novak:

This is in response to your recent request to the Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA) to assess the power supply situation of the Duke Power Company in the time frame of August 1-15, 1980. This request was initiated by a request from Duke Power Company for a temporary modification to their operating license for the Oconee Unit No. 2 in order to allow operation above 60 percent (up to 100 percent) if necessary to maintain adequate service to their electric customers through August 15, 1980. The following analysis is based on data already available to the ERA and data obtained from Duke Power Company, American Electric Power Company, Tennessee Valley Authority, Southern Company and Virginia Electric Power Company which was verified by the ERA staff.

The continued hot weather in the south and mid-west is resulting in high loads on the electric power systems in these areas. On the Duke Power System, loads are currently approaching the system's generating capacity, leaving less than a 5 percent operating reserve. Long-range weather forecasts for the next two weeks predict that the current hot weather will continue. This leaves Duke in a situation where a slight increase in loads or the forced outage of even a midsize generating unit will exhaust their available resources. The loss of a major unit could not be accommodated without obtaining assistance from neighboring utilities or resorting to mandatory load curtailment.

The various electric utilities surrounding the Duke system were surveyed to determine if there existed any capability for assisting Duke over the next two weeks. In all cases, these other systems are also experiencing demands close to their available resources, including purchases they have been able to arrange from even more remote utilities. Therefore, any help that Duke could

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receive would be only on an hour-by-hour basis, and would be withdrawn, if needed, by the supplying system. This could necessitate mandatory load curtailment on the Duke system because of the conditions mentioned above.

The situation on the Duke system would improve considerably if Belews Creek Unit No. 1 (1,140 MW) returns to service as scheduled on August 11. In the absence of any other generating unit outages, this would bring the system reserve level up to about 14 percent at present load levels. However, several units with a net capacity of 900 MW are currently operating with minor tube leaks and will have to be removed for repairs over the next two weekends. If repairs proceed as scheduled, the units will be available for the peak load period the following Monday.

In summary, the power supply situation on the Duke Power Company System is such that all options should be available to assure continuity of service to all customer loads. The modification requested to the operating license for Oconee Unit No. 2 would help provide this necessary flexibility provided there is adherence with all health and safety concerns.

I would appreciate being notified of the decision regarding Oconee Unit No. 2.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Weiner  
Director, Division  
Power Supply and Reliability  
Economic Regulatory Administration