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 TUCKER, H.B. Duke Power Co.  
 RECIPIENT NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 DENTON, H.R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director  
 STOLZ, J.F. Operating Reactors Branch 4

SUBJECT: Application for amend to Licenses DPR-38, DPR-47 & DPR-55  
 revising Tech Specs re reactor vessel surveillance capsule  
 withdrawal schedule. Class III & I fees encl.

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February 23, 1983

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. John F. Stolz, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station  
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50, §50.90, please find attached a proposed amendment to the Oconee Facility Operating License and revision to the Oconee Technical Specifications. This proposal concerns a change to the Oconee Reactor Vessel surveillance capsule withdrawal schedule contained in the Oconee Technical Specifications.

Table 4.2-1 of Specification 4.2 contains the capsule assembly withdrawal schedule for Oconee. This schedule was incorporated into the Oconee Operating License in 1977. At the time of its development, the peak end of life (EOL) fluence was predicted to be  $2.2 \times 10^{19}$  n/cm<sup>2</sup> (E > 1 Mev). This corresponds to a peak fluence at the  $\frac{1}{4}T$  vessel wall location of  $1.2 \times 10^{19}$  at EOL. Principally as a result of fuel management program changes, the predicted peak EOL fluence is presently  $1.2 \times 10^{19}$  while the peak EOL fluence at the  $\frac{1}{4}T$  location is presently predicted to be  $6.7 \times 10^{18}$ . The existing schedule of Table 4.2-1 requires that Capsule OCI-A be removed after the seventh cycle of Crystal River III operation. The expected capsule fluence at that time would be  $1.4 \times 10^{19}$ . As can be seen, this fluence is approximately equal to the initial  $\frac{1}{4}T$  value for EOL, but exceeds by approximately 50 percent the present  $\frac{1}{4}T$  predicted EOL fluence. However, by revising the existing schedule to allow withdrawal of Capsule OCA-1 after Cycle 4, the accumulated fluence will be only about  $7.1 \times 10^{18}$ , which is comparable to the presently expected  $\frac{1}{4}T$  EOL fluence ( $6.7 \times 10^{18}$ ). It is for this reason that this Technical Specification is to be reviewed and approved by the NRC promptly. The next Crystal River III refueling outage (end of cycle 4) is anticipated for March 1983. If this capsule were to remain in the Crystal River vessel and were to be irradiated an additional cycle, the expected fluence accumulation would be  $1 \times 10^{19}$ . Thus, it is highly desirable to withdraw OCI-A at the earliest possible date to obtain fluence consistent with the intent of 10 CFR 50, Appendix H.

The reduction in magnitude of vessel fluence and the resulting effects on the previously established schedule are obviously more far-reaching than just the OCI-A capsule. Activities are in progress to support a complete revision to the integrated capsule surveillance program to assure that the capsules are inserted and withdrawn at optimum times. One other presently identified change

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

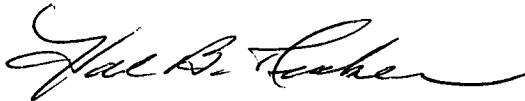
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affecting Oconee is the insertion of capsule OCIII-C at the end of Crystal River cycle 4, rather than at the end of cycle 5. It is anticipated that this revised schedule will be available within the next few months for submittal.

This proposed revision to the Oconee Technical Specifications is considered to consist of one Class III and one Class I license amendments. Accordingly, please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$4400 for the applicable licensing fees.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

RLG/php  
Attachment

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. J. C. Bryant  
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Mr. E. L. Conner, Jr.  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
February 23, 1983  
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HAL B. TUCKER, being duly sworn, states that he is Vice President of Duke Power Company; that he is authorized on the part of said Company to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this request for amendment of the Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specifications, Appendix A to Facility Operating Licenses DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55; and that all statements and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.



Hal B. Tucker, Vice President

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of February, 1983

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

September 20, 1984