Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270 and 50-287

Mr. J. W. Hampton Vice President, Oconee Site Duke Power Company P. O. Box 1439 Seneca, South Carolina 29679 DISTRIBUTION

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Dear Mr. Hampton:

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 - USE OF ORIFICE PLUGS FOR STEAM GENERATOR TUBES (TAC NOS. M81537, M81538, AND M81539)

By letter dated September 3, 1991, Duke Power Company submitted a request for an interpretation of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 Steam Generator Technical Specifications concerning the potential future use of orifice plugs. The orifice plugs were proposed as a backup method of plugging previously installed explosive plugs in which crack indications had been identified. The preferred method of sealing defective plugs was using a remotely operated milling and welding machine. At the time of your submittal, this was the first use of this equipment in actual steam generator work, so planning for a backup method was prudent.

It is our understanding that the remotely operated equipment has now been successfully used in repairing defective plugs in the Oconee steam generators, thus, eliminating the need for the orifice plugs. The NRC staff is in the process of developing new criteria and requirements with respect to steam generator tube inspection and repair, including plugging criteria. The requested Technical Specification interpretation would be impacted by this new generic criteria. Since there is no immediate operational need at Oconee Nuclear Station for the use of these plugs, the staff has discontinued its review of this matter. It will be considered in the new generic criteria.

If you have questions regarding this matter, contact me at (301) 504-1495. This completes our efforts under TAC Nos. M81536, M81537, and M81538.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. A. Wiens, Project Manager Project Directorate II-3 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555 April 28, 1993

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L. A. Wiens, Project Manager Project Directorate II-3 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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