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ACCESSION NBR: 8303240270 DUC. DATE: 83/03/17 NOTARIZED: NO DOCKET #
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 50-270 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Duke Power Co. 05000270
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 DENTON, H. R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director
 STOLZ, J. F. Operating Reactors Branch 4

SUBJECT: Confirms NRC understandings re maintaining containment
 purge valves closed whenever reactor not in cold shutdown
 or refueling mode, presented in 830218 ltr. Description of
 mods to purge sys encl.

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March 17, 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

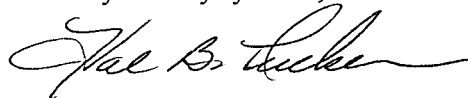
Dear Sir:

By letter dated November 5, 1982, Duke Power committed to provide certain information related to the Oconee purge system. Subsequently, in a letter dated February 18, 1983, the NRC provided understandings regarding the maintaining of the containment purge valves closed whenever the reactor is not in the cold shutdown or refueling mode. Duke would like to confirm that the understandings by the Staff are correct.

Duke is in the process of evaluating two means of purifying the Reactor Building atmosphere. The first involves several modifications to the existing Oconee purge system. These modifications would retain the basic 48 inch design but would upgrade several aspects of the system as summarized in Attachment 1. The design is intended to meet the NRC Branch Technical Position CSB 6-4. Upon implementation of these modifications, Duke would expect to limit purging to only hot shutdown, cold shutdown, and refueling modes of operation. However, prior to proceeding with the detailed design and engineering, NRC approval of this concept would be necessary. Following such approval, a submittal would be made by Duke providing the necessary system design information that would support Technical Specifications which limit purge system operation to the above modes upon implementation of the system upgrades. This means would be pursued only if the following were not demonstrated to be feasible.

The second means involves the installation of purification equipment within containment which would be designed to remove airborne particulates and iodine so as to allow personnel entry. This method is still under evaluation with a feasibility report expected by June. Upon completion of this evaluation, Duke will advise the NRC of our current long term plans regarding the Oconee purge system. In the interim, and as noted in the opening paragraph the purge valves at Oconee will be maintained closed whenever the reactor is not in the cold shutdown or refueling mode.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

RLG/php
Attachment

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

March 17, 1983

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cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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

Mr. J. C. Bryant
NRC Resident Inspector
Oconee Nuclear Station

Attachment 1

Modifications to RB Purge System to Meet
NRC Branch Technical Position CSB 6-4

<u>Item</u>	<u>CSB 6-4 Paragraph</u>
Qualified Isolation Valves, Operators	B.1.d
ASME III-2 Material & Analyses	
Qualification Testing & Analyses - Function	B.1.a
Environmental Qualification & Testing	
Zero Leakage Seal Design	
Qualified Instrumentation & Signaling	B.1.d, B.1.e
Radiation Monitors	
Signals	B.1.e
Debris Design	B.1.g
Screen design	
Ductwork Inspection & Modification	
Structural Analysis	
Analyses	B.5
LOCA Radiological	B.5.a, B.1.c, B.1.f
ECCS Backpressure	B.5.c
Environmental and Accident Impact on Downstream Equipment	B.5.b
Allowable Valve Leakage	B.5.d