



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 17, 1995

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RELIEF NO. 94-GO-002 - OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2  
(TAC NO. M89755)

Dear Mr. Hampton:

By letter dated June 22, 1994, the Duke Power Company submitted Request for Relief 94-GO-002 for generic approval to implement ASME Code Case N-522 at each of the Duke nuclear stations. This Code case would allow the use of 10 CFR 50 Appendix J containment integrity tests in lieu of the periodic hydrostatic pressure tests for designated piping and isolation valves. Oconee Unit 2 was to be the first Duke nuclear unit to implement this Code case in October 1994.

By letter dated October 11, 1994, we informed you that we were unable to complete our review of this request on a schedule to support implementation at Oconee Unit 2. In a letter dated October 20, 1994, you stated that it would incur a considerable hardship to perform the required ASME tests during the Unit 2 End-of-Cycle (EOC) 14 outage then in progress, and would result in approximately a 2-day delay in the outage completion date. You requested relief to delay the required ASME hydrostatic testing until the Oconee Unit 2 EOC15 outage. If the NRC staff approved Relief Request 94-GO-002 prior to this outage, the hydrostatic tests would not be performed. You proposed to perform testing during the EOC14 outage in accordance with Code Case N-522 for the specific penetrations as an alternate test.

Based on our review of your request, we find that a delay in the EOC14 outage in order to perform testing of the specific containment penetrations specified in your request in accordance with the ASME Code would result in a hardship on your facility. Since containment integrity is the only safety related function performed by the penetrations, testing of the penetrations in accordance with Code Case N-522 provides adequate assurance that they are capable of performing their safety function for the period until the next refueling outage. Therefore, the NRC concludes that a one-time delay of the ASME Code-required hydrostatic tests of the specified containment penetrations until the Oconee Unit 2 EOC15 outage will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety and, therefore, the alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

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If you have questions regarding this matter, contact Len Wiens at (301) 504-1495.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-270

cc: See next page

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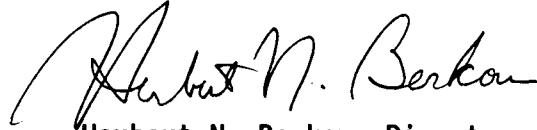
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Mr. J. W. Hampton

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(301) 504-1495.

Sincerely,



Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-270

cc: See next page

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Oconee Nuclear Station

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