

November 26, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Herbert N. Berkow, Project Director
 Project Directorate, II-2
 Division of Reactor Projects I/II

FROM: Keith R. Wichman, Acting Chief /S/
 Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
 Division of Engineering

SUBJECT: STAFF SAFETY EVALUATION OF CRDM PENETRATION
 NOZZLES AS OCONEE UNIT 2 (TAC No. M95291)

On April 9-11, 1996, the Duke Power Company (DPC) performed re-inspections of the No. 23 and No. 63 CRDM penetration nozzles at the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Unit 2. The re-inspections were part of DPC's routine refueling activities for the plant's End-of-Cycle 15 (Spring 1996) refueling outage (RFO). Mr. James Medoff, of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, attended DPC's examinations of the unit's No. 23 and No. 63 CRDM penetration nozzles at the invitation of DPC.

On April 30, 1996, DPC submitted its safety assessment (flaw evaluation) of the No. 23 and No. 63 CRDM penetration nozzles to the NRC. This flaw evaluation was supplemented with additional information on October 9, 1996. The staff has reviewed DPC's assessment of the indications in the No. 23 and No. 63 CRDM penetration nozzles. Attached is the staff's safety evaluation (SE) of DPC's flaw evaluation (Attachment 1). This staff's SE is based in part on observations of the staff who were present for the CRDM penetration nozzle examinations (April 1996), and in part on the staff's review of 1996 flaw evaluation of the CRDM penetration nozzles.

Based on the staff's review of DPC's flaw evaluation regarding the No. 23 and No. 63 CRDM penetration nozzles, the staff concludes that the flaw indications in No. 23 and No. 63 CRDM penetration nozzles will be acceptable for service over the next two operating cycles of operating for the plant, and justify operation of the ONS Unit 2 plant for operating cycles No. 16 and 17.

Docket No.: 50-270

Attachment: As stated

cc: D.E. Labarge C.E. Carpenter

CONTACT: James Medoff, NRR
 (301)415-2715

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