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 DENTON, H. R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director (post 851125  
 STOLZ, J. F. PWR Project Directorate 6

SUBJECT: Forwards relief request from inservice insp requirement of Section XI of 1980 Edition of ASME Boiler & Pressure Vessel Code & request for exemption from 10CFR50.55a(g)(4) to allow common start date of 840301 for second interval. Fee paid.

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add: EB (W. Johnston)  
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PJN

**DUKE POWER COMPANY**

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28242

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VICE PRESIDENT  
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

TELEPHONE  
(704) 373-4531

January 23, 1986

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

Attention: Mr. John F. Stolz, Project Director  
PWR Project Directorate No. 6

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

Dear Sir:

By my letter dated December 2, 1983 Duke Power Company (Duke) submitted a request for exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 50, §50.12. The exemption requested concerned a common start date for the second Inservice Inspection (ISI) interval for all three Oconee units at other than 120 months from the commercial operation date. By letter dated November 7, 1984 exemption to the requirements of §50.55a(g)(4) was granted to allow a common start date of April 1, 1984 for all three units for ISI.

By letter dated July 22, 1985, NRC requested confirmation that Oconee's ISI program would be performed in accordance with the 1980 Edition of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code with addenda through Winter 1981. A conference call on September 23, 1985 between Duke and NRC was held to discuss the request. Since there are no substantive technical differences between the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1980 and the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1981, the participants tentatively agreed that the Code Edition applicable to the second ten year interval should be the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1980. Further, it was also agreed that a Relief Request and an exemption, per 10 CFR 50, §50.12, was required.

Duke hereby submits a request for relief and an exemption to allow for the previously accepted; however, arbitrarily established common start date of April 1, 1984 to be revised to March 1, 1984. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50, §50.55a, please find attached (Attachment 1) a request for relief from the ISI requirements of Section XI of the 1980 Edition of the Code with addenda through Winter 1980. Additionally, please find attached (Attachment 2) a request for exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 50, §50.12.

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Q PDR

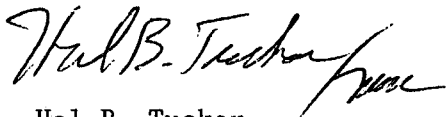
ADD: EB (w. JOHNSON) A047  
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Rec'd w/CHECK \$150.00

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This request requires payment of a fee for approval as described in 10 CFR 70, §170.12. Accordingly, please find attached a check in the amount of \$150.00 as set forth in §170.21.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

PJN/

Attachment

cc: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

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

Ms. Helen Nicolaras  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Duke Power Company  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
Attachment 1

Request for Relief from ASME Boiler  
and Pressure Vessel Code Section XI

Duke Power Company  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
Units 1, 2, and 3

Request for Relief from  
ASME Code Section XI  
(With Addenda Through Winter 1980)  
Inservice Inspection Requirement

I. Component for which relief is requested:

N/A

II. Reference code requirement that has been determined to be impractical:

ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section XI, 1980 Edition, with addenda through Winter 1980:

Paragraph IWA-2400 (b) which states that the inspection interval shall be determined by calendar years following placement of the power unit into commercial service.

III. Basis for requesting relief:

By letter dated November 7, 1984, NRC granted exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 50, §50.55a(g)(4) as requested by Duke letter dated December 2, 1983. This exemption allowed a common start date for Inservice Inspection (ISI) of all three Oconee units at other than 120 months from commercial operation of any one unit.

In response to a request for information dated July 22, 1985 a conference call on September 23, 1985 between Duke and NRC tentatively concluded that since there are no substantive technical differences between the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1980 and the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1981, the Code Edition applicable to the second ten year interval should be the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1980.

The April 1, 1984 common start date requested in my December 2, 1983 letter was arbitrarily established. Failure to revise the common start date to March 1, 1984 would result in an unnecessary administrative burden, specifically, it would require the update of our current ISI plan for the second ten year interval. This requirement is deemed unnecessary due to the fact that differences in the subject codes are administrative in nature, with no substantive technical differences.

The ASME Code requires that the inservice examination and system pressure test required by IWB, IWC, and IWD shall be completed during each of the inspection intervals for the service lifetime of the plant. Section IWA-2400 allows the inspection interval of 10 years to be decreased or extended (but not cumulatively) by as much as 1 year for inspections required by IWB, IWC, and IWD. The inspections performed in accordance with IWP and IWV are not affected by a change in inspection interval length.

Therefore, based on the above discussion, Duke concludes that there is no benefit or subsequent increase in the protection of public health and safety by retaining the April 1, 1984 common start date. Duke considers this to be a conservative interpretation of the Code requirement, and requests that the common start date for all three Oconee Units be at other than the calendar years following placement of the Power unit into commercial operation.

IV. Alternative Examination:

For Units 1, 2, and 3 the second ten year inspection interval for the inservice examination and system pressure tests required by the Code is to begin March 1, 1984.

V. Implementation Schedule:

Effective immediately

Duke Power Company  
Oconee Nuclear Station

Attachment 2

Request for Exemption to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)

Duke Power Company  
Oconee Nuclear Station

Request for Exemption to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50, §50.12, Duke Power hereby requests an exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 50, §50.55a(g)(4). This section of the code specifically requires that:

(4) Throughout the service life of a boiling or pressurized water-cooled nuclear power facility, components (including supports) which are classified as ASME Code Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 shall meet the requirements, except design and access provisions and preservice examination requirements, set forth in Section XI of editions of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and Addenda that become effective subsequent to editions specified in paragraphs (g)(2) and (g)(3) of this section and are incorporated by reference in paragraph (b) of this section, to the extent practical within the limitations of design, geometry and materials of construction of the components.

(i) Inservice examinations of components, inservice tests to verify operational readiness of pumps and valves whose function is required for safety, and system pressure tests, conducted during the initial 120-month inspection interval shall comply with the requirements in the latest edition and addenda of the Code incorporated by reference in paragraph (b) of this section on the date 12 months prior to the date of issuance of the operating license, subject to the limitations and modifications listed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(ii) Inservice examinations of components, inservice tests to verify operational readiness of pumps and valves whose function is required for safety, and system pressure tests, conducted during successive 120-month inspection intervals shall comply with the requirements of the latest edition and addenda of the Code incorporated by reference in paragraph (b) of this section 12 months prior to the start of the 120-month inspection interval, subject to the limitations and modifications listed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(iii) For a facility whose operating license was issued prior to March 1, 1976, the provisions of paragraph (g)(4) of this section are effective after September 1, 1976, at the start of the next-one third of a 120 month inspection interval. During that third of an inspection interval and the remainder of the inspection interval, the inservice examinations of components, tests to verify operational readiness of pumps and valves whose function is required for safety, and system pressure tests, for such facilities shall comply with the requirements in the latest edition and addenda of the Code incorporated by reference in paragraph (b) of this section on the date 12 months prior to the start of that third of an inspection interval, subject to the limitations and modifications listed in paragraph (b) of this section.



By letter dated November 7, 1984, NRC granted exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 50, §50.55a(g)(4) as requested by Duke letter dated December 2, 1983. This exemption allowed a common start date for Inservice Inspection (ISI) of all three Oconee units at other than 120 months from commercial operation of any one unit.

In response to a request for information dated July 22, 1985 a conference call on September 23, 1985 between Duke and NRC tentatively concluded that since there are no substantive technical differences between the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1980 and the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1981, the Code Edition applicable to the second ten year interval should be the 1980 Edition with Addenda through Winter 1980.

The April 1, 1984 common start date requested in my December 2, 1983 letter was arbitrarily established. Failure to revise the common start date to March 1, 1984 would result in an unnecessary administrative burden, specifically, it would require the update of our current ISI plans for the second ten year interval. This requirement is deemed unnecessary due to the fact that differences in the subject codes are administrative in nature, with no substantive technical differences.

Duke hereby requests the second interval common start date be revised to March 1, 1984. This change would allow all three Oconee units to perform inservice inspections per the requirements of the 1980 Edition with addenda through Winter 1980 of the Code. This change is administrative in nature with no impact to the protection of the public health and safety.

Duke has concluded that for the ISI program, the proposed second interval start date of March 1, 1984 is consistent with code requirements which allow the initial interval to be completed at other than exactly 120 months.

The preceding statements support our exemption request to allow a common start date for inservice inspection for all three Oconee units and for that date to be at other than 120 months from commercial operation of any one unit. Duke requests that this exemption request be promptly reviewed and approved by NRC.