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SUBJECT: Forwards "Technique Development for Ultrasonic Exam of Reactor Vessel Flange..." "Oconee Upper Reactor Vessel Subassembly Fabrication Study" & "...Reactor Vessel Flange-to-Shell Weld Section XI Ultrasonic Insp..." "W/o encls.

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June 13, 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 letter dated April 24, 1986, Duke Power submitted information concerning the twenty-two (22) indications identified during the Ultrasonic Testing (UT) of the Oconee Unit 1 Reactor Vessel Shell-to-Flange Weld. During a meeting held on April 21, 1986, Duke agreed to provide additional information and test results by June 16, 1986.

In support of this agreement please find the following three technical documents:

- (1) B&W Document No. 1163186A entitled "Technique Development for Ultrasonic Examination of Reactor Vessel Flange to Shell Weld from the Flange Face".

This technical document describes the test program conducted by B&W at its Mount Vernon, Indiana facility on a reactor vessel flange similar to the Oconee-1 vessel. This test program was conducted to determine:

- (A) If the inspection technique utilized for the Oconee-1 RV flange inspection could result in geometric reflectors.
- (B) If transducers of different size, frequency, and/or at different inspection angles could successfully inspect the area of interest from the flange face while minimizing the detection of known geometric reflectors.
- (C) If differences between the calibration block and the reactor vessel flange would result in a significantly over sensitive inspection.

- (2) B&W Document No. 51-1164282-00 entitled "Oconee Upper Reactor Vessel Sub-Assembly Fabrication Study".

This technical document was prepared as a supporting document for Item 1 above, and provides the necessary background information needed to verify the similarity of the Mount Vernon vessel to that of the Oconee 1, 2, and 3 vessels. This similarity provides the basis for future application of the Mount Vernon test program results at Oconee Station.

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

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- (3) B&W Document No. 1163187A entitled "Oconee 1, 2, and 3 Reactor Vessel Flange to Shell Weld Section XI Ultrasonic Inspection History".

This technical document was also prepared as a supporting document for Item 1 above, and provides a summary of the ASME Section XI Baseline and Inservice Inspection parameters and results for the weld in question for Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3. This information provides a database for comparison of past to future inspection results.

In summary, the information and results presented in the attached technical documents adequately address the questions and concerns expressed by NRC personnel during the April 21, 1986 meeting and provides a significantly improved inspection technique for future use at Oconee Nuclear Station.

The recommendations identified in B&W Document No. 1163186A will be employed in the upcoming Unit-2 Inservice Inspection to be performed during the End-of-Cycle 8 Refueling Outage. Duke currently projects that the refueling outage will begin August 14, 1986.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

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