



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 9, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO: Thomas H. Essig, Acting Chief
Generic Issues and Environmental Projects Branch
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: James H. Wilson, Senior Project Manager *James H. Wilson*
Generic Issues and Environmental Projects Branch
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION SITE VISIT TO
SUPPORT REVIEW OF OCONEE'S LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION

An environmental review team consisting of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and contractors from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), participated in a site visit at Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) October 19-21, to support the review of the ONS license renewal application. The team consisted of ten PNNL staff and eight NRC staff. One goal of the site visit was to give the review team a clearer picture of the entire Keowee-Toxaway project including the lakes comprising the three-reservoir system and their inter-dependence. The primary goal of the site visit was to review documentation, gather information to ensure that environmental requirements of license renewal as codified in 10 CFR 51 are met, and to interface with officials in State and local government permitting and resource agencies.

The entire team participated in an introductory meeting with Duke Energy staff on Monday, October 19, prior to the environmental scoping meetings held later that day in Clemson, South Carolina. Duke Energy introductory presentations gave the review team a better understanding of the applicant's organizational structure and provided a brief overview of the environmental programs, management practices, and resources available to Oconee environmental staff. Following the introductory meeting, the entire review team participated in a guided site tour, focusing on areas relevant to the environmental review. These areas included the intake/discharge structures, skimmer wall, independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI), effluent discharge points, meteorological towers, wetlands, and chemical treatment ponds. On Tuesday, October 20, individual disciplines broke off into smaller groups with the Duke officials responsible for the corresponding area of expertise. These groups participated in various activities including boat tours of Lake Keowee, van tours of the transmission line corridors, and unaccompanied visits with state and local government officials. On Wednesday, October 21, most of the environmental review team reviewed pertinent sections of the environmental report, discussed new and significant information methodology and determinations for Category 1 issues, and other documentation provided by Duke. No new and significant information was identified. Two groups visited Columbia, South Carolina, the state capitol, and met with staff from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the state archeologist, and staff of the

1/0
DFOI

9811160212 981109
PDR ADOCK 05000269
P PDR

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

November 9, 1998

T. Essig

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). On Thursday, October 22, NRC and PNNL staff concluded meetings with local government officials regarding socioeconomic, environmental justice, and land-use issues.

No major problem areas were identified in consultations with state and local government officials. However, follow-up consultations with DHEC will need to be conducted regarding toxicity concerns at one of the chemical treatment ponds and with the SHPO regarding potential complications associated with the possibility of ONS being nominated for the National Historic Registry during the period of extended operation. Staff from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources indicated that they had a good working relationship with Duke. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources did mention that they were concerned about Duke raising fees for the use of boat ramps on Lake Keowee and about privatization of land around the lake that was supposed to be maintained for wildlife preservation. The socioeconomic reviewer received only positive comments regarding Oconee license renewal from local government officials and realtors. One source claimed that the quality of Lake Keowee would most likely decline if ONS were decommissioned. One interesting fact that was collected is that ONS contributes 42.5% of the county revenue.

Some issues were raised by the environmental review team during the ONS site visit. The use of 1976 meteorological data and 1990 census data in probabilistic risk assessment reports was questioned. The presence of Corbicula, an Asiatic clam, in fire water and other raw water systems was discussed, since Corbicula can cause clogging of pipes. The population of Corbicula seems to have stabilized in Lake Keowee due to low calcium levels and is not expected to become a problem.

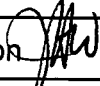

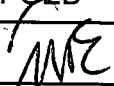
At the conclusion of the site visit, NRC staff participated in an exit interview with Duke officials. PNNL staff wanted more time to review some of the documentation made available by Duke during the site visit, and Duke agreed to forward that information to PNNL directly. Duke was notified that any additional information would be formally requested as a request for additional information (RAI), as the environmental review progressed. Duke Energy provided an organized, informative, and well-represented site visit for the environmental review team.

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, 50-287

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: see next page

DOCUMENT NAME: g:\oconee\sitevisi.sum

OFFICE	PGEB	PM:PGEB	(A)SC:PGEB	(A)BC:PGEB
NAME	CSochor CSS	JHWilson 	RArchitzel 	TEssig 
DATE	11/9/98	11/9/98	11/9/98	11/9/98

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

T. Essig

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). On Thursday, October 22, NRC and PNNL staff concluded meetings with local government officials regarding socioeconomic, environmental justice, and land-use issues.

No major problem areas were identified in consultations with state and local government officials. However, follow-up consultations with DHEC will need to be conducted regarding toxicity concerns at one of the chemical treatment ponds and with the SHPO regarding potential complications associated with the possibility of ONS being nominated for the National Historic Registry during the period of extended operation. Staff from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources indicated that they had a good working relationship with Duke. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources did mention that they were concerned about Duke raising fees for the use of boat ramps on Lake Keowee and about privatization of land around the lake that was supposed to be maintained for wildlife preservation. The socioeconomic reviewer received only positive comments regarding Oconee license renewal from local government officials and realtors. One source claimed that the quality of Lake Keowee would most likely decline if ONS were decommissioned. One interesting fact that was collected is that ONS contributes 42.5% of the county revenue.

Some issues were raised by the environmental review team during the ONS site visit. The use of 1976 meteorological data and 1990 census data in probabilistic risk assessment reports was questioned. The presence of Corbicula, an Asiatic clam, in fire water and other raw water systems was discussed, since Corbicula can cause clogging of pipes. The population of Corbicula seems to have stabilized in Lake Keowee due to low calcium levels and is not expected to become a problem.

At the conclusion of the site visit, NRC staff participated in an exit interview with Duke officials. PNNL staff wanted more time to review some of the documentation made available by Duke during the site visit, and Duke agreed to forward that information to PNNL directly. Duke was notified that any additional information would be formally requested as a request for additional information (RAI), as the environmental review progressed. Duke Energy provided an organized, informative, and well-represented site visit for the environmental review team.

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, 50-287.

Attachment: As stated

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: Oconee Nuclear Station site visit summary dated Nov. 9, 1998

Hard copy

~~PUBLIC~~

Docket File

PDLR RF

M. El-Zeftawy, ACRS

C. Grimes

S. Hoffman

J. Wilson

C. Sochor

E-mail:

F. Miraglia

J. Roe

D. Matthews

T. Essig

G. Lainas

J. Strosnider

G. Bagchi

H. Brammer

T. Hiltz

G. Holahan

S. Newberry

C. Gratton

L. Spessard

R. Correia

R. Latta

J. Moore

R. Weisman

M. Zabler

E. Hackett

A. Murphy

T. Martin

D. Martin, OIG

W. McDowell

S. Droggitis

C. Craig

R. Jolly

PDLR Staff

H. Berkow

D. LaBarge

L. Plisco

C. Ogle

R. Trojanowski

M. Scott

C. Julian

R. Architzel

R. Gill, Duke

D. Walters, NEI

Oconee Nuclear Station (License Renewal)

cc:

Paul R. Newton, Esquire
Duke Energy Corporation
422 South Church Street
Mail Stop PB-05E
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

J. Michael McGarry, III, Esquire
Anne W. Cottingham, Esquire
Winston and Strawn
1400 L Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20005

Mr. Rick N. Edwards
Framatome Technologies
Suite 525
1700 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-1631

Manager, LIS
NUS Corporation
2650 McCormick Drive, 3rd Floor
Clearwater, Florida 34619-1035

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7812B Rochester Highway
Seneca, South Carolina 29672

Regional Administrator, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Virgil R. Autry, Director
Division of Radioactive Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Department of Health and
Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-1708

County Supervisor of Oconee County
Walhalla, South Carolina 29621

W. R. McCollum, Jr., Vice President
Oconee Site
Duke Energy Corporation
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, SC 29679

Mr. J. E. Burchfield
Compliance Manager
Duke Energy Corporation
Oconee Nuclear Site
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, South Carolina 29679

Ms. Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice
P. O. Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

L. A. Keller
Manager - Nuclear Regulatory Licensing
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

Mr. Richard M. Fry, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
North Carolina Department of
Environment, Health, and
Natural Resources
3825 Barrett Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721

Gregory D. Robison
Duke Energy Corporation
Mail Stop EC-12R
P. O. Box 1006
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

Robert L. Gill, Jr.
Duke Energy Corporation
Mail Stop EC-12R
P. O. Box 1006
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006
RLGILL@DUKE-ENERGY.COM

Douglas J. Walters
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708
DJW@NEI.ORG

Chattooga River Watershed Coalition
P. O. Box 2006
Clayton, GA 30525