

May 17, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR: Barry Zalcman, Section Chief
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial,
and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: James H. Wilson, Senior Project Manager Original Signed By:
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial,
and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR OCONEE LICENSE
RENEWAL

Over the past several months, the staff has been engaged in discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS, the Service) concerning the environmental review associated with Duke Energy Corporation's (Duke's) application for license renewal at the Oconee Nuclear Station, (ONS) Units 1, 2, and 3. Specifically, in mid-March I spoke on several occasions with Mark Cantrell (with the FWS office in Ashville, NC), with Laurie Duncan and Steve Gilbert (with the FWS office in Charleston, SC), and with Kathryn Boyle (with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) to discuss the consultation process and to develop contacts for the staff at PNNL to use in gathering information concerning species occurrence data for North and South Carolina.

In a letter dated May 10, 1999, the staff transmitted its position on the scope of transmission line rights-of-way impacts on threatened and endangered species that would be expected to occur as a result of maintenance activities related to operation of the ONS for a period of an additional 20 years.

NRC staff, with assistance from PNNL, is developing a biological assessment for transmittal to FWS. At the current time, and based on FWS recommendations, we expect to engage in informal consultation with the Service and to complete that process prior to the licensing action at Oconee.

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

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

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