

# CATEGORY 2

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SUBJECT: Refers to recent conversation re participation in pending renewal of DPC Oconee Nuclear Station operating license. Confirms determination that Div of Radwaste Mgt would take lead & be responsible for technical review of application.

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MEMORANDUM

June 29, 1998

TO: David Wilson, Assistant Bureau Chief, Bureau of Land and Waste Management

FROM: Virgil Autry, Director, Division of Radioactive Waste Management *Virgil Autry*

RE: NRC License Renewals

This is in reference to my recent conversation with you and Hartsill Truesdale regarding our participation in the pending renewal of the Duke Energy Co.'s Oconee Nuclear Station operating license issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and similarly, for other commercial nuclear energy facilities planned in the future. This need exists since the state and the Department will be provided with the opportunity to participate in the renewal process by the NRC due to our public health and safety responsibilities. We have also made commitments to the Governor's Office in this regard. It was, therefore, your joint determination that the Division of Radioactive Waste Management would take the lead for the Bureau of Land and Waste Management and be responsible for technically reviewing the renewal application provided by the NRC, providing written comments, attending and participating in public hearings and meetings as required, and coordinating these efforts with other affected Bureau and EQC divisions, and applicable state agencies.

Your decision was based on the following:

1. This division, under the former Bureau of Radiological Health, was previously tasked with this responsibility for the initial NRC licensing of the Oconee, Catawba, VC Summer, and AGNS facilities, and therefore has the experience to perform the required reviews with a trained engineering and health physics staff.
2. Our licensing program is compatible to that of the NRC, and we now perform license reviews and approvals for similar activities. This division has also been delegated regulatory responsibility for the Agreement State Program from the NRC.

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3. The division has regulatory oversight over the Oconee radioactive waste and transportation programs, and has a working relationship with their facility and corporate engineering, licensing, and regulatory staff.
4. The division now serves as the states's contact with the NRC's nuclear licensing staff and project managers for the review and approval of all pertinent license amendments for the nuclear power plant operating licenses, and therefore, a current working relationship with the NRC staff.
5. I am appointed by the Governor as the NRC State Liaison and the Governor's Designee for all high level waste and highway route controlled shipment information.

If there are any questions from any of the affected program areas regarding this matter, they may contact me directly at 896-4244.

Thank you.

cc: Mr. Doug Novak, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Bob Trojanowski, NRC Region II  
Mr. Paul Lohaus, NRC Agreements Program