



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 5, 1999

LICENSEE: Duke Energy Corporation (Duke)
FACILITY: Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY MANAGEMENT MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) STAFF AND DUKE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE OCONEE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

On February 26, 1999, representatives of Duke met with the NRC staff in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the Oconee license renewal application. A list of meeting attendees is provided as Enclosure 1. A copy of the staff's and Duke's presentation materials discussed at the meeting are provided as Enclosures 2 and 3, respectively.

The staff discussed the status of the review (see Enclosure 2). The staff noted that Duke responded to all requests for additional information (RAIs) in the safety review area by the schedule date of February 17, 1999. The staff noted that Duke expects to meet the March 4, 1999, date for most of the environmental RAIs. Duke has indicated that the severe accident mitigation alternative (SAMA) RAIs have been delayed until March 12, 1999. Duke questioned if this would impact the overall schedule for the environmental review. The staff stated that if the SAMA RAI responses address the staff's issues then there should be no impact on the schedule. The staff noted that if there were problems with the responses, there would be a day for day slip in the schedule.

The NRC staff noted that communications continue to be good with several phone calls held to date to clarify RAIs. In addition, a meeting was held regarding the Environmental Qualification (EQ) RAIs. The results of the EQ meeting were factored into Duke's RAI responses and the staff provided high level feedback that Duke's RAI responses appear to address the staff's issues. The staff stated that 9 of the 11 issues identified by Duke in the February management meeting were discussed in meetings or phone calls prior to Duke submitting its RAI responses. The two issues that were deferred were the definition of consumables, and updating of the license renewal application. Duke responded to the staff's consumable RAIs without the benefit of clarifying phone calls. The staff stated that it hoped to issue a paper soon in this area and would evaluate Duke's responses. Regarding updating of the license renewal application, the staff requested Duke to evaluate and propose to the staff, when, and how many times, the application should be updated based on the current schedule. The staff would then evaluate the proposal and, if it agreed with the proposal, evaluate if any exemptions to 10 CFR Part 54 would be required.

The NRC staff then discussed concerns regarding the scoping and screening RAI responses. The staff explained that it had identified several issues based on an initial evaluation of Duke's RAI responses provided in a February 17, 1999, letter. The resolution of the issues has the potential to impact the schedule for the first license renewal inspection. The first license renewal inspection is tentatively scheduled for the end of April and the inspection will focus on the scoping and screening process that Duke used in its license renewal application. The main issue at this time is that the staff does not understand how the Oconee safety-related

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Except for the attendees list in Enclosure 1, an advance copy of the handouts to this meeting summary was sent directly to the PDR on 3/1/99

Docket File

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designation clarification process was used by Duke in the license renewal application. The staff stated that it would develop a list of issues and Duke agreed to have discussions to address the issues. In order to not impact the scoping and screening inspection, the staff stated that the issues would have to be resolved by March 12, 1999.

Duke then provided its presentation (see Enclosure 3). Duke stated that it had concerns with the environmental review regarding transmission lines and SAMAs. Duke noted that phone calls had taken place in both these areas so that it could better address the issues in its RAI responses. Duke stated that the SAMA RAI responses are resulting in much work on its part. According to Duke, the additional work has not changed the original conclusion (i.e., no additional SAMAs beyond those enhancements previously implemented are justified). Duke stated that although it would provide the RAI response for Oconee, it believed the amount of work required by the staff's SAMA review should be a policy question for future applicants. The staff stated that it used the Watt's Bar SAMA review as a basis for the questions it asked of Oconee. The staff also noted that it could not come to a determination regarding SAMAs based solely on the information in the license renewal application. The staff also stated that it would take into consideration the costs and the benefits associated with the review and determine if anything should be done differently in the future. The staff further indicated that the issue may need to be elevated to the license renewal steering committee.

Original Signed By

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

Enclosures: As stated (3)

cc w/encls: See next page

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FEBRUARY 26, 1999, NRC MEETING WITH DUKE REGARDING OCONEE

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Greg Robison	Duke Energy
Dave Matthews	NRR/DRIP
Chris Grimes	NRR/DRIP/PDLR
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**Oconee License Renewal
Application Status Report to
Duke Energy
February 26, 1999**

Enclosure 2

Oconee Renewal Status

2/26/99

- Schedule Adherence
- Accomplishments
- Tracking of Past Items
- Hearing Status
- Concerns

Oconee Renewal Status

2/26/99

Schedule Adherence

- Duke responded to all technical RAIs by the schedule date of 2/17/99
- Duke expects to meet the 3/4/99 date for most of the Environmental RAIs. The severe accident mitigation alternative RAIs have been delayed to 3/12/99.
- DES to be issued by 6/2/99 and SER by 6/17/99

Accomplishments

- Duke responded to all technical RAIs on schedule
- Communications continue to be good
 - Four conference calls held to clarify staff RAIs
 - 1/19/99 meeting held to discuss EQ RAI response. Meeting was productive and high level feedback from the staff indicates that Duke's EQ RAI responses address the staff's concerns
 - Duke supported one phone call to answer staff's questions
- FSER issued on 2/18/99 for Fluence Methodology (BAW-2241)

Oconee Renewal Status (cont)

2/26/99

Tracking of Past Items

- Duke identified 11 concerns in 1/14/99 meeting
 - Phone calls held for 9 of the concerns
 - 2 of the issues were deferred: definition of consumables, and CLB changes that materially affect contents of the application.

Hearing Status

- On 12/29/98, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board denied Chattooga River Watershed Coalition's (CRWC) petition to intervene. Appeal filed with the Commission on 1/14/99.
- Staff and the applicant filed their responses in opposition on 1/25/99

Oconee Renewal Status (cont)

2/26/99

Concerns

- Scoping RAI responses
- First license renewal inspection needs to be scheduled



Oconee License Renewal

*Duke/NRC Management
Meeting
February 26, 1999*



Agenda

- Accomplishments
- Safety Review Observations & Plans
- Environmental Review Status
- Expectations

February 26, 1999

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Accomplishments

■ Safety Review

- Duke completed issuance of the 324 Safety RAI Responses
 - 12/14/98 Letter 36 responses
 - 1/25/99 Letter 52 responses
 - 2/8/99 Letter 104 responses
 - 2/17/99 Letter 132 responses

■ Environmental Review

- Continued open communications as responses to the 39 RAIs are being prepared

■ Hearing Process

- Chattooga River Watershed Coalition appealed ASLB decision to the Commission.

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Safety Review Observations

- Key Safety Review topics from last report were:
 - *Reactor Vessel topics involving BWO, Duke and NRC*
 - *Specific topics requiring clarification*
 - *Topics with unclear purpose*
- Key topics related to the RAIs have been discussed as appropriate and addressed in the RAI Responses
- Communications have been helpful to clarify issues and resulted in more focused responses

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Safety Review Observations

- All RAI responses have been provided and we await feedback on the RAI Responses
- **NRC reaction to EQ response?** EQ RAI Responses were discussed in a 1/19/99 NRC/Duke meeting and issued in 2/8/99 letter.
- We aim to continue open communications as we work through any key topics that may arise
- Key topic beyond the RAIs yet to be discussed:
 - *Definition of "CLB change that materially affects contents" of the Application (54.21(b))*

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Safety Review Plans

- NRC scoping & screening site inspection planned for late April at Oconee
- NRC Safety Evaluation Report issuance planned for June
- Duke Application annual update per 54.21(b) planned for June
- Key topic associated with communications from now until June:
 - *How will RAI follow-up discussions/decisions be managed and documented to assure progress?*

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Environmental Review

- Duke is developing responses to the 39 RAIs received on 12/29/98
- All Environmental RAI Responses are on track for issuance by 3/4/99, except for the 9 SAMA RAIs which are scheduled for issuance by 3/12/99
- Communications have been helpful to clarify the key topics and are resulting in more focused responses
- Next two slides cover environmental key topics
- Topics were discussed with NRC

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Oconee Transmission Lines

- Scope of Transmission Line reviews are the topic of a number of Environmental RAIs
- Part 51 requires an environmental review of "transmission lines that were constructed for the specific purpose of connecting the plant to the transmission system."
- Original licensing documents are unclear about what lines are ascribed to the Keowee-Toxaway Project and what lines are associated with Oconee Nuclear Station.
- NRC has requested Duke to review environmental impacts associated with approximately 330 miles lines that are part of the offsite transmission system
- A full description is offered in the RAI Responses to better clarify the origins and ownership of the lines

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Oconee SAMA Review

- Duke has performed a number of studies and has implemented a number of enhancements to reduce the risk of severe accidents
- Current estimated risk is 5 person-Rem per year
- SAMA Review for license renewal:
 - Rigorous approach which made use of previous studies
 - Identified leading contributors to risk
 - Identified potential SAMA for these leading contributors
 - Estimated the value using public health benefit and the cost of these potential SAMA
- Conclusion - no additional SAMAs beyond those enhancements previously implemented are justified

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Staff Review of the Oconee SAMA Review

- Thoroughly re-assess procedural, non-hardware alternatives from previous studies, especially those not implemented
- Assess shutdown risk and potential SAMA
- Re-assess SAMA for license renewal using:
 - more current meteorological data
 - projected population at 2030
 - all averted costs
- These additional assessments :
 - are resource intensive
 - are beyond the expected SAMA process for license renewal
 - have not changed the conclusions contained in the Oconee ER

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Expectations

- **Expectations to be accomplished by next NRC/Duke Management Meeting (March 30, 1999)**
 - *Discuss staff feedback on Safety RAI Responses (Duke and NRC Staff)*
 - *Clarify how RAI follow-up discussions / decisions will be managed and documented to assure progress (Duke and NRC staff)*
 - *Exchange insights on the 54.21(b) rule interpretation as input to annual Application update (Duke and NRC staff)*
 - *Communicate/Coordinate/Conduct a successful Scoping & Screening Site Inspection (Duke and NRC staff)*
 - *Submit responses to Environmental RAIs (Duke)*

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