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 50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co. 05000287
 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 CASTO,C.H. Region 2 (Post 820201)
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 MCCOLLUM,W.R. Duke Power Co.

SUBJECT: Forwards insp repts 50-269/98-15, 50-270/98-15 & 50-287/98-15
 on 981102-06, 981116-20 & 981211 & NOV. Expresses concern re
 violation because NRC identified failures to update DPC
 UFSAR that DPC 1998 UFSAR Review Project failed to identify.

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December 23, 1998

EA 98-552

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-269/98-15, 50-270/98-15, 50-287/98-15, AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. McCollum:

- This refers to the inspection conducted on November 2-6, November 16-20, and December 11, 1998, at the Oconee facility. The purpose of the inspection was to follow up on open items regarding potential design basis issues with the emergency feedwater system and inaccurate statements in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) about the emergency feedwater system. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. This violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed inspection report. The violation is of concern because the NRC identified failures to update your UFSAR that your 1998 UFSAR Review Project failed to identify.

Although you implemented corrective actions to update the FSAR on November 18, 1998, the safety evaluation for the first example of the violation may have failed to identify an unreviewed safety question. Therefore, because your initial corrective actions appear to be inadequate, you are required to respond to this letter in accordance with the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

Two apparent violations were also identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The first apparent violation involves an inadequate procedure for manually connecting alternate emergency electrical power to a high pressure injection pump. The second apparent violation involves three examples of the failure to perform or inadequate 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluations for changes to procedures affecting the ability to supply alternate emergency electrical power to a high pressure injection pump. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

An open predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations will be held with you during January 1999. We will contact you to arrange a specific date. The decision to

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hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address the past safety significance of the inadequate procedures (when different versions of procedures were in place and different equipment was installed). We also expect you to address the safety significance of the inadequate procedures with regard to various potential initiating events during which they would be relied upon, including high energy line break and tornado. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violations, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Charles A. Casto

Charles A. Casto, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report 50-269/98-15,
50-270/98-15, 50-287/98-15
3. Enforcement Policy (excerpt)

cc w/encs: (See page 3)

cc w/encls:

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(Distribution w/encls - See page 4)

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NRC Resident Inspector

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