NOV 16 1976

ORIGINAL

Dockets Nos. 50-269
50-270
and 50-287

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. William O. Parker, Jr.
Vice President
Steam Production
Post Office Box 2178
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Gentlemen:

On March 26, June 25 and April 16, 1976, the Commission issued exemptions from the provisions of 10 CFR 50, Appendix H, which authorized operation of Oconee Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively for up to one operating cycle with reactor vessel surveillance specimens removed from their reactor vessels. In addition, on October 23, 1976, the Commission issued a further exemption for Oconee Unit No. 3 which authorized operation for one additional cycle with the reactor vessel surveillance specimens removed from the Oconee Unit No. 3 vessel.

As you are aware, since granting these exemptions the NSSS vendor, Babcock & Wilcox, (B&W) has had several meetings with the staff concerning a proposed "integrated surveillance program" wherein vessel surveillance specimens from one reactor would be irradiated at other similar B&W-designed reactors. Applications for such a program have been received from three licensees. We have not, at this time, however, made a determination as to the acceptability of such a program. Such a program would be in lieu of reinstallation of redesigned specimen surveillance holder tubes (SSHT) in vessels from which the original design SSHTs were removed.

Since most of the exemptions noted above will expire within the next few months and since your selection of a course of action other than reinstallation of specimens in the vessel from which they were removed may require an extended period of time for staff review, you should commit to a course of action to resolve this issue and provide a detailed action plan for Oconee Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3 within 20 days of receipt of this letter. If your plans involve installation of the specimens in other than their original vessels, we request the information listed in Enclosure 1 to this letter be submitted within 45 days of the receipt of this letter in order to determine the acceptability of your proposal.

OFFICE ➤					
SURNAME ➤					
DATE ➤					

Form AEC-318 (Rev. 9-53) AECM 0240 ☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1974-526-166

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Regardless of the method you propose to monitor changes in the fracture toughness of the Oconee Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3 vessel materials, you should also submit within 45 days of receipt of this letter a description of any additional program you plan to implement to satisfy the fracture toughness requirements of Appendix G to 10 CFR Part 50 (specifically Paragraph V.C). Since such a program may require data from the surveillance programs at several reactors, you should also address the appropriate questions in Enclosure 1 as they relate to your planned program in this area.

Sincerely,

A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
Request for Additional
Information

cc w/encl:
See next pagE

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cc: Mr. William L. Porter
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 2178
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Mr. Troy B. Conner
Conner & Knotts
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Oconee Public Library
201 South Spring Street
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Honorable James M. Phinney
County Supervisor of Oconee County
Walhalla, South Carolina 29621

Office of Intergovernmental Relations
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

REACTOR VESSEL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Provide your contingency plans for assuring that your surveillance program will not be jeopardized by an extended outage of any other reactor(s) from which you expect to receive data. What time limits will you place on the host* reactor(s) for given outage and justify these limits.

2. Provide you program and schedule for installing the redesigned surveillance capsule holders in your reactor in the event this action becomes necessary.

   What is the schedule for withdrawal of your capsules from the host reactor(s)? Relate the schedule to predicted trends in adjusted reference temperature and Charpy upper shelf energy. What arrangements have been made with the owners of the host reactor(s) to assure that this withdrawal schedule will be met?

3. Specify the minimum and maximum radiation lead times for: (a) surveillance specimens relative to the vessel beltline inner surface, and (b) surveillance specimens relative to the 1/4T position in the vessel wall, which you will require for guest specimens exposed in the host reactor(s). Justify the values specified.

4. Indicate the corrective action to be undertaken at the guest reactor if the limits specified in response to Question 3, above, cannot be met. If the corrective action does not involve reactor shutdown, justify the proposed alternative.

5. Describe how the operating staff of the guest reactor will keep informed of the exposure status of the guest specimens at the host reactor(s) relative to the limits specified in response to Question 3, above.

6. Submit amended proposed Technical Specifications that reflect the appropriate portions of your responses to Questions 2, 3, 4 and 5 above.

*The "host reactor has the redesigned surveillance specimen capsule holders for irradiation of both the "host capsules" which contain material representative of the host reactor beltline, and "guest capsules" which represent (for want of a better word) "guest reactors".