

NRC DISTRIBUTION FOR PART 50 DOCKET MATERIAL

FILE NUMBER

TO: Mr. Benard C. Rusche		FROM: Duke Power Company Charlotte, North Carolina Mr. William O. Parker, Jr.		DATE OF DOCUMENT 3/23/77
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DESCRIPTION

Ltr. consisting of information regarding amendments to Facility Operating licenses approved and issued by the NRC.....

ACKNOWLEDGED

(2-P)

PLANT NAME:
Oconee 1-2-3

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RJL

ENCLOSURE

SAFETY		FOR ACTION/INFORMATION		ENVIRO	
ASSIGNED AD:				ASSIGNED AD:	
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PROJECT MANAGER:	<i>Zech</i>			PROJECT MANAGER:	
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INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION			
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MIPC		MACARRY	KIRKWOOD
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HARLESS		PAWLICKI	STELLO
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EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION			CONTROL NUMBER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LPDR: <i>Waltham, SC</i>	NAT. LAB:	BROOKHAVEN NAT. LAB.	770900351
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DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

March 23, 1977



PHONE: AREA 704
373-4083

Mr. Benard C. Rusche, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287

Dear Mr. Rusche:

Throughout the life of a nuclear station, amendments to Facility Operating Licenses are approved and issued by the NRC. Normally, these amendments are effective on the date of their issuance. In the majority of instances, immediate implementation of these amendments is acceptable and, in fact, desirable. For example, this is the situation in the case of amendments to the Technical Specifications which are required for reactor restart following a refueling outage.

There are, however, instances in which the issuance of an amendment effective upon issuance will result in the facility being operated outside the limits of the newly approved facility operating license until appropriate procedures, setpoints or operational methods are revised. This possibility exists whenever the operational limits are revised at a time when the facility is in operation. For example, Amendment 37 to Facility Operating License DPR-38 issued on February 4, 1977 revised the Oconee 1, "Protection System Maximum Allowable Setpoints" curve such that portions of the new curve were slightly more restrictive than the old curve. Therefore, the unit was operated for a period of time under limits not in full compliance with the Technical Specifications (See Reportable Occurrence RO-269/77-5).

In order to avoid such incidents in the future, it is recommended that the NRC establish a formal policy to assure proper coordination between the staff and licenses. One option which exists for achieving the desired result would be to change NRC amendment issuance procedures to require contact with a licensee representative prior to issuance of an amendment to establish an effective implementation date and, subsequently, provide for a delayed effective implementation date when not deleterious to unit operation or to have the amendment effective within a fixed period of time from issuance.

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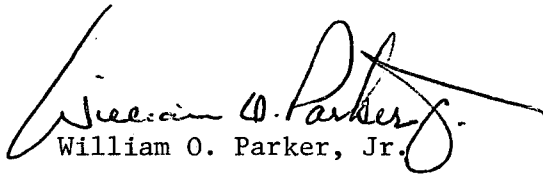
Mr. Benard C. Rusche

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Your attention to this matter is appreciated, and we are prepared to discuss the above further as necessary.

Very truly yours,



William O. Parker, Jr.

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