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SUBJECT: Application for amends to licenses DPR-38,DPR-47 & DPR-55, proposing rev to TS to provide interim acceptance criteria for control rod drop time in unit 1.

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DUKE POWER

November 11, 1993

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269,-270,-287
Control Rod Drop Time Testing
Proposed Technical Specification Amendment

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50, Part 50.90, Attachment 1 provides a proposed amendment to the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) facility operating licenses and revisions to the ONS Technical Specifications. A markup of the current Technical Specifications is provided in Attachment 2. This amendment will provide an interim acceptance criteria for control rod drop time on Oconee Unit 1. Specifically, control rod Group 1, Rod 8 and Group 2, Rod 5 would be considered operable with an insertion time of ≤ 3.00 seconds provided that: 1) the average insertion time for the remaining rods in Group 1 and the average insertion time for the remaining rods in Group 2 is ≤ 1.5 seconds, and 2) the core average negative reactivity insertion rate is within the assumptions of the safety analysis. This acceptance criteria would apply until the end of the current fuel cycle for Oconee Unit 1 (end of cycle 15, currently scheduled for April 1994). This acceptance criteria for rod drop time would apply, for the two rods in question, rather than the existing TS 4.7.1 limit of 2.00 seconds from the fully withdrawn position to 3/4 insertion. In addition to establishing the interim acceptance criteria, these rods will be tested at the next available opportunity.

Technical justification for this amendment request is provided in Attachment 3. Briefly, assuming these two rods drop into the core within 3.00 seconds and the remainder of the rods in these groups drop within 1.5 seconds, then the negative reactivity insertion rate will remain within the assumptions of the safety analysis. Therefore, there is no safety significance associated with the possibility that these two control rods might have drop times not greater than the proposed 3.00 seconds.

Attachment 4 provides the No Significant Hazards Consideration Evaluation and Environmental Impact Statement.



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At present Group 2, Rod 5 for Unit 1 has been declared inoperable due to testing on November 3, 1993 which resulted in a drop time of 2.063 seconds. Unit 1 is operating at full power with adjusted control rod position limit curves which take into account additional shutdown margin requirements due to the inoperable rod. These limits reduce the operating flexibility of the unit to respond to transient situations without violating the new shutdown margin requirements. These curves will need to be revised again prior to the current fuel cycle exceeding 300 EFPD and will apply for the remainder of cycle 15 (430 +/- 10 EFPD). These curves will be very restrictive with Group 2 Rod 5 declared inoperable. Normal power maneuvering will be mostly via very slow boron adjustments to the RCS. Any transient conditions are more likely to result in violation of the imposed shutdown margin curves. Unit 1 is currently at 267 EFPD.

An additional burden will occur at 375 EFPD, when Axial Power Shaping Rods (APSR)-Group 8 are withdrawn from 35% to 100% as part of the normal fuel cycle. Group 7 rods are used to compensate for the reactivity change while withdrawal is in progress. The new CRD position limit curves will make this evolution very difficult.

As shown from the evaluation addressed in the technical justification for this proposed amendment, these restrictions are currently being imposed without any justified safety requirements.

Additionally, if another control rod on Unit 1 is declared inoperable for any reason, an unnecessary shutdown to hot standby must occur within 12 hours per Technical Specification 3.5.2.2.e.

Therefore, it is requested that this proposed amendment receive timely review and approval to prevent unnecessary operator burden and possible violation of current restrictive control rod position limits that are being imposed as a result of Unit 1, Group 2, Rod 5 being declared inoperable.

I am forwarding a copy of this application to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for review and, as appropriate, subsequent consultation with the staff.

Very Truly Yours,

J. W. Hampton

xc: L. A. Wiens, ONRR

S. D. Ebneter
Regional Administrator, Region II

P. E. Harmon
Senior Resident Inspector

Heyward Shealy, DHEC

J. W. Hampton, being duly sworn, states that he is Vice President of Duke Power Company, that he is authorized on the part of said Company to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this revision to the Oconee Nuclear Station License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55; and that all statements and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

J. W. Hampton, Vice President

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day November, 1993.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 7-9-1997

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