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SUBJECT: Confirms April, 1989 commencement of ISFSI design concrete placement.

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DUKE POWER

February 21, 1989

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Document Nos. 72-4, 50-269, 270, -287
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI)
Commencement of Design Concrete Placement

Gentlemen:

I outlined in my March 31, 1988 letter of application the milestone schedule necessary for an ISFSI to provide temporary storage of Oconee spent fuel. That letter requested expeditious NRC review and approval of the application so that, consistent with Duke's needs, loading of spent fuel into the ISFSI may commence in January, 1990. My October 11, 1988 letter reiterated Duke's need to begin site clearing and grading activities in October 1988. Your letter of October 21, 1988 provided us with the necessary approval to begin these activities in early November, 1988. This phase of the project is now nearing completion.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the milestone schedule of the remaining construction activities required to support spent fuel loading in January, 1990 and to request that your staff continue to keep Duke advised of the status of their review of the ISFSI license application.

As I mentioned earlier, site clearing and earthwork activities are drawing to a close. The rock removal and rough earth excavation are essentially completed. The finishing excavation, installation of drainage features, and grassing operations will be completed within the next few weeks. It is my understanding that the October 25, 1988 notice of issuance of environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact allows Duke to continue with construction activities. Therefore, design concrete placement will begin in April, 1989, and continue to completion in September, 1989. The electrical and security systems will be installed in the June to September, 1989 timeframe. The schedule milestone for completion of all ISFSI construction activities is October 1, 1989.

As the scheduled date for the beginning of concrete placement activities approaches, I must continuously assess the licensing risks that remain. I responded on November 23, 1988 to the detailed comments that resulted from your initial review of Duke's Safety Analysis Report. My staff has periodically contacted Mr. John Roberts concerning progress of the application review, and I am not aware of any outstanding technical concerns regarding Duke's application.

8903070077 890221
PDR ADOCK 05000269
Y PDC

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
February 21, 1989
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Additionally, I understand that the final technical concern associated with your review of the NUHOMS -24P Topical Report has been resolved. I have instructed my staff to continue their periodic contacts with Mr. Roberts to ensure that these important lines of communication remain open, thus allowing immediate resolution of any technical issues. I request that your staff contact M. A. Haghi at 704/373-4060 immediately should any new technical concerns arise during your continued review of Duke's ISFSI license application.

In summary, please be advised that in the absence of any significant technical concerns raised by your staff, my plans are to proceed with the schedule of construction activities described within this letter. As you can see, the schedule for the remaining activities for this facility remains constrained. Your continued cooperation in the review of our license application is essential to maintain the scheduled in-service milestone of January, 1990 for the Oconee ISFSI.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. B. Tucker".

H. B. Tucker

MAH29.D2/lcs

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