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 EBNETER, S.D.                  Region 2, Ofc of the Director

SUBJECT: Documents commitments re Units 1 & 2 reactor protection sys setpoints for reactor coolant pump power monitors.

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**DUKE POWER**

January 3, 1990

Mr. S. D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
101 Marietta St. NW  
Suite 2900  
Atlanta, GA 30323

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station  
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287  
RPS-RCP Power Monitors

Dear Mr. Ebnetter:

The proceeding information is provided to document Duke Power Company commitments relative to Oconee Units 1 and 2 Reactor Protection System setpoints for reactor coolant pump power monitors.

By letter dated September 25, 1989 I submitted a proposed amendment to the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Facility Operating Licenses and revision to the Oconee Technical Specifications. The proposed revisions support operation of Unit 3 at full rated power during Cycle 12. Within the amendment request, changes were included which removed all specifications associated with two Reactor Coolant Pump (RCP) operation. These changes were to have been implemented on Units 1 and 2 upon Unit 3 Cycle 12 startup.

On December 15, 1989 the NRC provided approval of the amendment numbers 180/180/177. Prior to Unit 3 Cycle 12 initial criticality on December 18, 1989 the Unit 3 Reactor Protection System (RPS) was changed to trip on loss of two RCPs above 0% full power (rather than 55%).

On December 29, 1989 during review of the NRC SER associated with amendment nos. 180/180/177 the Oconee operations staff identified that Units 1 and 2 RPS had not been changed. As a result, Units 1 and 2 are not consistent with the provisions of Technical Specifications 2.3 and 3.5.1.

Following discussions with Region II and ONRR personnel, my staff has determined that Units 1 and 2 RPS RCP power monitors are conditionally operable above 55% full power. In order to allow for an adequate review of procedures and recalibration of the RPS RCP power monitors, the following guidance has been established for Units 1 and 2:

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- 1) If reactor power is reduced to 55% or less, with any pump combination, then the reactor shall be placed in hot shutdown conditions within 12 hours (T.S. 3.5.1.2, table 3.5.1-1, functional unit 9).

or

The RPS/pump monitors setpoints shall be changed to comply with the new T.S. amendment within 12 hours.

NOTE: If power is increased above 55% then the LCO is exited:

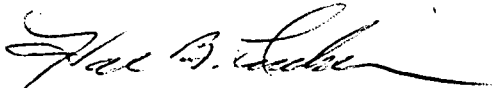
- 2) If at any time only 2 RCP's are operating at equal to or less than 55% power, then bring the reactor to hot shutdown.
- 3) Even though operators are trained to manually trip the reactor if the RPS fails to function as required by T.S., this is a special situation in which units 1 & 2 should be shutdown in an orderly manner instead of tripped. The reason for this is that units 1 & 2 RPS are not currently calibrated to cause a trip at < 55% power if at least 2 RCP's are operating.

These guidelines will remain in effect until Unit 1 and 2 RPS/pump monitor setpoints are recalibrated to comply with the new T.S 2.3 change.

Conditional operability and related guidance for Units 1 and 2 involve no safety concerns since the Unit 1 and 2 cores were analyzed and licensed to operate in two RCP configurations. A License Event Report is forthcoming which will provide further detail on this event.

Necessary changes to the Units 1 and 2 RPS as a result of amendments 180/180 will be implemented by January 8, 1990.

Very truly yours,



H. B. Tucker

PJN83/td

cc: Mr. L. A. Wiens  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulation Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Mr. P. H. Skinner  
NRC Resident Inspector  
Oconee Nuclear Station