

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DUKE POWER COMPANY

DOCKETS NOS. 50-269, 50-270, AND 50-287

NOTICE OF AUTHORIZATION TO RESUME OPERATION

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued an Order on May 7, 1979 (44 F.R. 27776, May 11, 1979), to Duke Power Company (the licensee), holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47 and DPR-55 for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3, confirming that the licensee accomplish a series of actions, both immediate and long term, to increase the capability and reliability of Oconee Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3 to respond to various transient events. In addition, the Order confirmed that the licensee would shut down Oconee 3 on April 28, 1979, an additional Oconee unit on May 12, 1979, and remaining unit on May 19, 1979, unless, with respect to the latter two units, the following actions had been accomplished prior to the prescribed dates:

- (a) Install automatic starting of the interconnected emergency feedwater system so that all three pumps will receive a start signal from any affected unit, and test the system for stability. The emergency feedwater pump discharge flow will be connected to the interconnection headers such that each or all of the emergency feedwater pumps can supply water to any unit. Until these modifications and tests are completed, operating personnel will be stationed at each emergency feedwater pump with a direct communication link to that unit's control room. In addition, the following procedural changes, put into effect on April 25, 1979 to enhance the reliability of the emergency feedwater system, will remain in force:
 - (1) The discharges of these pumps have been tied together by alignment of manual valves such that each and all of the pumps can supply emergency feedwater to any Oconee Unit requiring it.

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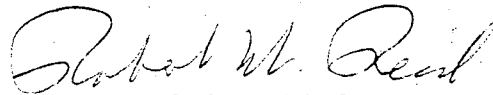
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- (2) Administrative controls have been established so that in the event of loss of both main feedwater pumps on an affected unit, that unit's emergency feedwater pump will start automatically, backed up by remote manual start from the control room. If the pump fails to start automatically, the operator stationed at that pump will start the pump locally, and has been trained to do so. In addition, the other two available emergency feedwater pumps will be started remotely from their unit's control room or locally if required to provide two more sources of feedwater to the affected unit.
 - (3) Emergency feedwater flow to the steam generators will be assured by the control room operator who has been trained to maintain the necessary level.
- (b) Develop and implement operating procedures for initiating and controlling emergency feedwater independent of Integrated Control System control.
 - (c) Implement a hard-wired control-grade reactor trip on loss of main feedwater and/or turbine trip.
 - (d) Complete analyses for potential small breaks and develop and implement operating instructions to define operator action.
 - (e) All licensed reactor operators and senior reactor operators assigned to the Oconee Control rooms will have completed the Three Mile Island Unit No. 2 simulator training at Babcock & Wilcox.

By submittal of May 7, 1979, as supplemented by two letters dated May 9, 1979, the licensee has documented the actions taken in response to the May 7 Order. Notice is hereby given that the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (the Director) has reviewed this submittal and has concluded that the licensee has satisfactorily completed the actions prescribed in items (a) through (e) of paragraph (1) of Section IV of the Order, that the specified analyses are acceptable and the specified implementing procedures are appropriate. Accordingly, by letter dated May 18, 1979, the Director has authorized the licensee to resume or continue operation of Oconee Units 1, 2 and 3. The bases for the Director's conclusions are more fully set forth in a Safety Evaluation dated May 18, 1979.

Copies of (1) the licensee's letter dated May 7, 1979, and two letters dated May 9, 1979, (2) the Director's letter dated May 18, 1979 and (3) the Safety Evaluation dated May 18, 1979 are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and are being placed in the Commission's local public document room at the Oconee County Library, 201 South Spring, Walhalla, South Carolina 29691. A copy of items (2) and (3) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Operating Reactors.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION



Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Operating Reactors

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 18th day of May 1979.