UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DUKE POWER COMPANY

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

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a to Duke Power Company, the licensees for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units Nos. 1, 2, and 3, located in Oconee County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) requires that licensees update their pump and valve inservice inspection (ISI) and testing (IST) programs to a newer edition of Section XI of the ASME Code each ten years. Since the regulations require these updates based on the 10-year anniversary of facility commercial operation, multi-unit sites often find that each unit has an ISI and IST program structured to a slightly different edition of the Code. The exemption would allow a common start date for ISI and IST for all three Oconee units and that date to be at other than 120 months from commercial operation of any one unit.

The proposed exemption is in response to the licensee's application dated December 2, 1983.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because ISI and IST at Oconee would be accomplished for some period of time to two different ASME Codes if a common start date were not established. Although administratively possible, this situation could contribute to increased personnel errors in the performance of inspection and testing requirements to two different versions of the Code. This can create a substantial and additional administrative workload for what can be described as only nominal technical differences in the inspection and testing requirements.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption will provide a degree of ISI and IST that is equivalent to that required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) such that there is no increase in the risk of failure for operational readiness of pumps and valves whose function is required for safety at these facilities. Consequently, the probability of failure for operational readiness of components has not been increased, the radiological risk is not greater than determined previously, and the proposed exemption does not affect otherwise plant radiological effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption dated December 2, 1983, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Oconee County Library, 501 West Southbroad Street, Walhalla, South Carolina.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 17th day of October, 1984

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation