

Docket No. 50-269

Mr. J. W. Hampton
 Vice President, Oconee Site
 Duke Power Company
 P. O. Box 1439
 Seneca, South Carolina 29697

Dear Mr. Hampton:

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST NO. 92-15 - SAFETY EVALUATION, OCONEE NUCLEAR
 STATION UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M84987)

By letter dated November 19, 1992, you submitted Relief Request No. 92-15 from ASME Code requirements for hydrostatic testing of the welds after replacement by welding of check valves 1FDW-39, 1FDW-232, 1FDW-233 and 1FDW-345 between the Emergency Feedwater System and the steam generators.

The NRC staff has reviewed your relief request and your proposed alternative testing of the welds. Our evaluation is enclosed. We find that an additional hydrostatic test, beyond the requirements of the normal hydrostatic test cycle, is unusually difficult because of the considerable practical difficulties involved and the unnecessary stresses to which the steam generator system would be subjected. Your proposed alternative to hydrostatic testing (100% radiography and VT-2 inspection of the welds at normal operating temperature and pressure) would provide assurance of the integrity of the welds and their ability to remain leak-tight at normal operating conditions. Therefore, your proposed alternative is acceptable.

Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), your proposed alternative to hydrostatic testing is authorized. The NRC staff has determined that the proposed alternative testing provides an acceptable level of quality and safety and that compliance with the code would result in an undue burden without a compensatory increase in the level of quality of safety.

Sincerely,

David B. Matthews, Director
 Project Directorate II-3
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
January 12, 1993

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Enclosure:
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See next page

Mr. J. W. Hampton
Duke Power Company

Oconee Nuclear Station

cc:

Mr. A. V. Carr, Esquire
Duke Power Company
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242-0001

J. Michael McGarry, III, Esquire
Winston and Strawn
1400 L Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20005

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Division
Suite 525
1700 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Manager, LIS
NUS Corporation
2650 McCormick Drive, 3rd Floor
Clearwater, Florida 34619-1035

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 2, Box 610
Seneca, South Carolina 29678

Regional Administrator, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, NW. Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. Heyward G. Shealy, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Office of Intergovernmental Relations
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

County Supervisor of Oconee County
Walhalla, South Carolina 29621

Mr. M. E. Patrick
Compliance
Duke Power Company
Oconee Nuclear Site
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, South Carolina 29679

Mr. Alan R. Herdt, Chief
Project Branch #3
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, NW. Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Ms. Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of
Justice
P. O. Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. G. A. Copp
Licensing - EC050
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1006
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

OCONEE RELIEF REQUEST 92-15

DATED: January 12, 1993

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