



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 17, 2017

Mr. Thomas D. Ray  
Site Vice President  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC  
7800 Rochester Highway  
Seneca, SC 29672-0752

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 – ACCEPTANCE REVIEW  
RESULTS FOR RELIEF REQUEST NO. 17-ON-001 (EPID L-2017-LLR-0099)

Dear Mr. Ray:

By letter ONS-2017-072 dated October 3, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17297A108), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee) submitted Relief Request No. 17-ON-001 for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.55a(z)(2), the licensee requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to authorize a proposed alternative to the 7-year examination frequency requirement of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code Case N-770-2, Inspection Item B for the nozzle-to-safe end dissimilar metal butt welds associated with the Core Flood Nozzles. Section 50.55a(z)(2) states that an applicant must demonstrate that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The staff performs acceptance reviews to determine if an application contains sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and to render, in an appropriate time frame for the associated action, an independent assessment of the proposed action. The staff also performs acceptance reviews to identify whether an application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant. This letter provides the results of the NRC staff's (i.e., "the staff's") acceptance review of the licensee's application.

By letter dated October 26, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17292A142), the staff informed the licensee that the staff would need supplemental information to complete its acceptance review of the licensee's application. By letter ONS-2017-079 dated November 13, 2017, the licensee supplemented its application. The staff concluded that the licensee's submittal, as supplemented, provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed request in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which the NRC staff identifies issues that affect its ability to complete the detailed technical

review despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If the NRC staff needs additional information, it will notify the licensee by separate correspondence.

Based on its initial review of the application, as supplemented, the staff estimates that it will take approximately 150 hours to complete its review of the application and that it will complete its review by April 12, 2018. These estimates could change because of several factors, such as requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of application scope, or parallel reviews of industry program initiatives or pilot applications. If complexities or challenges during the review cause significant changes to the estimated hours or completion date, the staff's licensing project manager will communicate the new estimates and reasons for the changes to the licensee during routine interactions.

Any inquiries regarding this matter can be directed to me at (301) 415-0489 or [Audrey.Klett@nrc.gov](mailto:Audrey.Klett@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Audrey Klett, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-269 and 50-270

cc: Listserv

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 –ACCEPTANCE REVIEW  
RESULTS FOR RELIEF REQUEST NO. 17-ON-001 (EPID L-2017-LLR-0099)  
DATED NOVEMBER 17, 2017.

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JCollins, NRR

**ADAMS Accession No. ML17319A434****\*via email**

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