

Docket Nos. 50-269/270
and 50-287

JUL 14 1977

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Duke Power Company
 ATTN: Mr. William O. Parker, Jr.
 Vice President - Steam Production
 P. O. Box 2178
 422 South Church Street
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Gentlemen:

By letter dated March 10, 1977, you requested an exemption from the provisions of Appendix H to 10 CFR 50 which would permit future operation of the Oconee Nuclear Station Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3 while irradiating the remaining reactor vessel surveillance specimens at Crystal River, Unit 3. This exemption was requested because damage to surveillance capsule holders prevented the surveillance program from being conducted at Oconee without substantial radiation exposure to plant personnel. By the same letter, you requested approval of proposed changes to the Oconee common Technical Specifications consistent with the requested exemption.

Irradiating the remaining Oconee surveillance specimens at Crystal River Unit 3 or in test reactors will cause the Oconee program to be out of conformance with the provision of Appendix H which requires the irradiation program to be performed within the Oconee vessels. However, as noted in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, the nominal dimensions of Oconee reactor vessels and internals are identical to those at Crystal River Unit 3, and the operating conditions at these two reactors are very similar so that with the exception of actual operating history and minor differences in power distribution, for which adjustments can be provided, the technical aspects of the material surveillance program will be achieved to our satisfaction.

Christine
B.

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Based on these considerations, we have concluded that an exemption for Oconee Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3 from this requirement for a continuing in-vessel material surveillance program as set forth in Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50 for a period of five years will not be detrimental to life or property or the common defense and security and is in the public interest. Therefore, the exemption requested in your letter of March 10, 1977, is approved for a period of five years from the date of this letter.

If an extension of this exemption beyond this initial five year term is desired, you should submit an application for extension to the Commission no later than six months prior to expiration of the exemption. This application should provide a justification for extending the term of the exemption based on operating experience.

In addition to granting this exemption, the Commission has issued the enclosed Amendments Nos. 44, 44, and 41 to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47 and DPR-55 for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3. The amendments provide for performance of the Oconee reactor-vessel material surveillance program at Crystal River Unit No. 1 and for the submission of specified reports. Certain changes were required in the proposed Technical Specifications submitted by your staff relative to this program. These have been discussed with and agreed to by your staff.

Copies of our related Safety Evaluation and the Notice of Issuance are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Victor Stello, Jr., Director
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

- 1. Amendment No. 44 to DPR-38
- 2. Amendment No. 44 to DPR-47
- 3. Amendment No. 41 to DPR-55
- 4. Safety Evaluation
- 5. Notice of Issuance

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ENGINEERING BRANCH
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OFFICE	ORB#1: DOR	ORB#1: DOR	ORB#1: DOR	AD: DOR	D: DOR	D: NRA
SURNAME	S Sheppard/nm	D Neighbors	A Schwencer	K Goller	V Stello	E Case
DATE	6/23/77	6/24/77	6/24/77	6/24/77	6/24/77	6/24/77

July 14, 1977

cc: Mr. William L. Porter
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 2178
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Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

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DeBevoise & Liberman
700 Shoreham Building
806-15th Street, NW.,
Washington, D.C. 20005

Oconee Public Library
201 South Spring Street
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Honorable James M. Phinney
County Supervisor of Oconee County
Walhalla, South Carolina 29621

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

Chief, Energy Systems
Analyses Branch (AW-459)
Office of Radiation Programs
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Washington, D. C. 20460

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV Office
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