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Docket No. 50-287

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. Austin C. Thies
Senior Vice President
Production and Transmission
422 South Church Street
P. O. Box 2178
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201

Gentlemen:

In response to your request of May 14, 1974, the Atomic Energy Commission has issued an Order extending the construction completion date for Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3. In lieu of the completion date of June 30, 1974, as specified previously in Provisional Construction Permit No. CPPR-35, the latest completion date has been extended to September 30, 1974.

A copy of the Order, which has been transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register for publication, is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
A. Schwencer

A. Schwencer, Chief
Light Water Reactors Branch 2-3
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Order Extending Construction
Completion Date

2. Staff Evaluation

ccs: See next page

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| SURNAME → | EGoulbourne:cjb | IPeltier | ASchwencer | WD Paton | |
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ccs, w/encl:

Mr. William L. Porter, Esquire
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 2178
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201

Honorable Reese A. Hubbard
County Supervisor of Oconee County
Walhalla, South Carolina 29620

Mr. Dave Hopkins, Region IV
Environmental Protection Agency
1421 Peachtree Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Mr. Elmer Whitten
State Clearinghouse
Office of the Governor
Division of Administration
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Mr. Troy B. Conner
Conner, Hadlock & Knotts
1747 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

bccs: HJMcAlduff, ORO
JRBuchanan, ORNL
NHGoodrich, ASLAP
ASRosenthal, ASLAB
TBAbernathy, DTIE

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DUKE POWER COMPANY
(Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3)

Docket No. 50-287

ORDER EXTENDING COMPLETION DATE

Duke Power Company is the holder of Provisional Construction Permit No. CPPR-35 issued by the Commission on November 6, 1967, for the construction of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, a 2568 megawatt (thermal) pressurized water nuclear reactor presently under construction at the Company's site in Oconee County, South Carolina, approximately eight miles northeast of Seneca, South Carolina.

On May 14, 1974 the Company requested an extension of the completion date because construction of Unit 3 has been delayed due to (1) modification to high energy lines, (2) inspection and modification of reactor coolant pumps, and (3) materials shortage. The Director of Regulation having determined that this action involves no significant hazards consideration, and good cause having been shown, the bases for which are set forth in a staff evaluation, dated

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the latest completion date for CPPR-35 is extended from June 30, 1974 to September 30, 1974.

FOR THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Original Signed by
A. Giambusso

A. Giambusso, Deputy Director
for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Date of Issuance: JUL 5 1974

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EVALUATION OF REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NO. CPPR-35
FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3
DOCKET NO. 50-287

Introduction

On May 14, 1974, Duke Power Company (the applicant) filed a request for an extension of the completion date for the construction of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3. The applicant requested a four month extension because of delays in construction and problems encountered in the early phases of operation of the station's other two nuclear units, Oconee Units 1 and 2.

Discussion

The applicant stated that the delay in completion is due to three major factors, (i) modifications to high energy lines outside containment (ii) inspection and modification of the reactor coolant pumps as a result of the Unit 2 reactor coolant pump seal failure and (iii) material shortages. In addition, problems associated with operation of Unit 2 have impacted indirectly on Unit 3 construction by diverting manpower from Unit 3 to Unit 2.

1. Modification to High Energy Lines

The extent and construction materials delivery problems of the high energy line plant modifications were not known and completely evaluated at the time (July 3, 1973) the applicant requested the CPPR extension to June 30, 1974. Materials delays were as much as six months over the original estimates and were beyond the control of the applicant. The staff has concluded that the applicant has made a best effort to complete these modifications. The direct construction delay was on the order of two weeks after materials were on hand. The safety of the plant is enhanced by these modifications and therefore the delays are in the public interest.

2. Inspection and Modification of Reactor Coolant Pumps

Oconee Units 1 and 2 are the first B&W plants of their kind to be placed in operation. Problems associated with these plants are factored into the preparation of Unit 3 for operation in order that corrective measures and preventative modifications can be effected as soon as they are known.

Oconee 2 suffered a reactor coolant pump seal failure on January 22, 1974 which resulted in an extensive investigation as to cause and study of corrective measures. Once the cause and corrective measures had been determined, Oconee 3 pumps were inspected and modified accordingly.

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The total impact on the Oconee 3 construction schedule is difficult to assess in view of the manpower diversion and decision factors (indirect factors) but the direct construction delay was on the order of two weeks once a course of action had been determined. The safety of the plant is not affected by the delay.

3. Materials Shortages

Materials delivery has been a chronic problem during construction. In particular, late delivery of valves during late 1973 and early 1974 has resulted in construction delays beyond the control of the applicant. The safety of the plant is not affected by the delays in material deliveries which have had a net impact of about three weeks.

4. Other Factors

Taking into consideration the above known factors and their direct impact on the construction schedule and allowing approximately five weeks delay for the diversion of manpower from Unit 3 to Unit 2, the applicant is estimating that the earliest he can complete construction is July 24, 1974. This date, however, assumes that the remaining material delivery dates will be met by vendors and no time consuming problems arise during preoperational testing now underway. Over a comparable period of time, Oconee Unit 2 slipped in the applicant's estimate for fuel loading from August 7, 1973 to October 6, 1973 (a period of two months) due to unforeseen events. If a contingency of this order is added to the July 24, 1974 estimate, extending the construction latest completion date to September 30, 1974 is judged reasonable.

Conclusion

The staff is cognizant of the above factors and concludes that they constitute good cause for a three month extension in the completion date for construction. Furthermore, the request proposes only an extension of the construction completion date and does not involve any work not already allowed by the existing construction permit. Therefore, the staff finds that this action does not involve any significant hazards consideration and concludes that the construction permit should be extended to September 30, 1974.

Original Signed by
I. Peltier

I. A. Peltier, Project Manager
Light Water Reactors Branch 2-3
Directorate of Licensing

Original Signed By
A. Schwencer

A. Schwencer, Chief
Light Water Reactors Branch 2-3
Directorate of Licensing

Date of Issuance: JUL 5 1974