

MAY 29, 1997

Mr. J. W. Hampton  
Vice President, Oconee Site  
Duke Power Company  
P. O. Box 1439  
Seneca, SC 29679

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RELIEF NO. 96-02, THIRD TEN-YEAR INSERVICE INSPECTION  
INTERVAL - OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS.  
M96201, M96202, AND M96203)

Dear Mr. Hampton:

By letter dated July 24, 1996, and supplemented by letter dated April 1, 1997, Duke Power Company requested relief from the volumetric examination coverage requirements of the ASME Code, Section XI, 1989 Edition, for certain welds in the steam generators and in the letdown cooler heat exchangers for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in the enclosed Safety Evaluation.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's Request for Relief No. 96-02, Revision 1 (which uses Oconee Nuclear Station Unit 2 as the basis and was extended to include Units 1 and 3), concerning the limited volumetric examination that is complemented by the VT-2 visual examination of the subject welds, and has concluded that it provides reasonable assurance of a leak-tight pressure boundary and hence, an operational readiness for each of the components. Compliance with the Code requirements are impractical due to weld geometry and/or interference. If the Code requirements were imposed, the components would have to be redesigned and installed, which would impose a significant burden on the licensee. Therefore, the requested relief from the Code requirement is granted for Unit 2, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i). It is also granted, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i) for the identical welds in Units 1 and 3, provided that the volumetric examination percentage of the identical welds in these units remain at least equal to or greater than the corresponding percentages described in this relief request. In addition, the Code-required hydrostatic test will be performed at 1.25 times the system design pressure. The requested relief is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest giving due consideration to the burden upon the licensee that could result if the requirements were imposed on the facility.

Sincerely,  
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:  
Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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\*See previous concurrence

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Vice President, Oconee Site  
Duke Power Company  
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*Herbert N. Berkow*

Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Oconee Nuclear Station  
Units 1, 2, and 3

cc:

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