

December 9, 1999

Mr. W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Energy Corporation
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

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SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3 RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN 10 CFR 50, APPENDIX J REQUIREMENTS (TAC NOS. MA6868, MA6869, AND MA6870)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application dated October 5, 1999, for an exemption from the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.2(b)(ii) regarding the performance of containment air lock leakage testing at the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3. The proposed exemption was submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12 and would allow performance of an air lock door seal test in lieu of a full pressure test, provided that no maintenance has been performed on the air lock that could affect its sealing capability. The seal test would be performed during startup prior to entry into Mode 4 where containment integrity is required. If maintenance has been performed on the air lock that could affect its sealing capability, then an overall air lock leakage test at the required test pressure would be necessary prior to establishing containment integrity.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

David E. LaBarge, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Duke Energy Corporation
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Seneca, SC 29672

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "De LaBarge", written in a cursive style.

David E. LaBarge, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Oconee Nuclear Station

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