December 23, 1999

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

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 RE: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION BASES CHANGES

Dear Mr. McCollum:

By letter dated December 16, 1999, you informed the staff of changes to the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 Technical Specifications (TS) Bases Section B 3.4.14, Reactor Coolant System Pressure Isolation Valve (PIV) Leakage. The purpose of the changes is to clarify that while performing testing in accordance with Surveillance Requirement 3.4.14.1, test activities, including contingencies, may be performed prior to declaring a PIV operable.

The purpose of this letter is to distribute the enclosed revised ITS pages to the appropriate TS manual holders.

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

Enclosure: Revised Bases Page

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

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Enclosure: Revised Bases Page

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BASES

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

SR 3.4.14.1 (continued)

Entry into MODES 3 and 4 is allowed to establish the necessary differential pressures and stable conditions to allow for performance of this Surveillance. The Note that allows this provision is complimentary to the Frequency of prior to entry into MODE 2 whenever the unit has been in MODE 5 for 7 days or more, if leakage testing has not been performed in the previous 9 months. In addition, this Surveillance is not required to be performed on the LPI System when the LPI System is aligned to the RCS in the decay heat removal mode of operation. PIVs contained in the DHR flow path must be leakage rate tested after DHR is secured and stable unit conditions and the necessary differential pressures are established. For the purposes of meeting this SR, test activities including contingencies may be performed prior to declaring a PIV inoperable. A PIV will be considered "in testing" until the test procedure is complete, or the test coordinator determines that further test contingencies would not be expected to produce an acceptable result.

REFERENCES

1. 10 CFR 50.2.
2. 10 CFR 50.55a(c).
3. NRC letter to DPC, "Order for Modification of License Concerning Primary Coolant System Pressure Isolation Valves," dated April 20, 1981.
4. NUREG-75/014, Appendix V, October 1975.
5. NUREG-0677, NRC, May 1980.
6. 10 CFR 50.36.
7. ASME, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI.
8. 10 CFR 50.55a(g).