



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 3, 2010

Mr. David A. Baxter
Site Vice President
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000269/2010001, 05000270/2010001,
AND 05000287/2010001)**

Dear Mr. Baxter:

On February 9, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Oconee Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security Related Information" will include the Security Cornerstone performance review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as the first three quarters of the assessment cycle at Units 2 and 3 was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at Units 2 and 3.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter of the assessment cycle at Unit 1 was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Plant performance for the first three quarters was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix. This was the result of a fourth quarter 2008 Initiating Events Cornerstone finding of low to moderate safety significance (White). On May 7, 2009, we were notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address this White finding. We initiated supplemental inspection 95001 on August 31, 2009, and the finding was closed at the end of the third quarter 2009. Therefore, we plan to conduct ROP baseline inspections at Unit 1.

In addition to ROP baseline inspections, we also plan on conducting several infrequently performed inspections, which include: Inspection Procedure 60855.1, Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants; Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/180, "Inspection of Procedures and Processes for Managing Fatigue;" operator licensing examinations; and TI 2515/172, "Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds." Additionally, the staff will continue its review of issues associated with fire, tornado, and high energy line break mitigation. The staff will also be conducting inspections to verify the adequacy and implementation of the interim compensatory measures associated with external flooding.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through June 30, 2011. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections listed in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4607 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jonathan Bartley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287, 72-004, 72-040

License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

cc w/encl:
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Oconee
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2010 - 06/30/2011

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			PB1T180 - FATIGUE RULE		2
1, 2, 3	01/01/2010	04/30/2010	IP 2515/180	Inspection of Procedures and Processes for Managing Fatigue	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP		4
1	03/08/2010	03/12/2010	V23286	OCONEE/MARCH 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK		4
1	03/29/2010	04/09/2010	V23286	OCONEE/MARCH 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			PSB1-RP - RP ACCESS CONTROLS		1
1, 2, 3	04/19/2010	04/23/2010	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			EB3ISI - UNIT 2 INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
2	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3T172 - TI-172 RCS DM BUTT WELDS		1
1, 2, 3	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
			EB3SGISI - UNIT 2 SGISI		1
2	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			PSB1-RP - RP PUBLIC RADIATION PROTECTION		3
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 71124.07	Public Radiation Safety	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		3
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - PREP		3
1	10/04/2010	10/08/2010	V23339	OCONEE/OCTOBER 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK		3
1	10/25/2010	10/29/2010	V23339	OCONEE/OCTOBER 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			EB3ISI - UNIT 3 INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
3	11/01/2010	11/05/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3T172 - RCS DISSIMILAR METAL BUTT WELDS		1
3	11/01/2010	11/05/2010	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
			EB3SGISI - UNIT 3 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
3	11/08/2010	11/12/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3ISI - UNIT 1 INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure

Oconee
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2010 - 06/30/2011

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP		3
1	04/11/2011	04/15/2011	V23348	OCONEE/APRIL 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			EB3SGISI - UNIT 1 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	04/18/2011	04/22/2011	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			TFPI - 805 TFPI		1
1, 2, 3	06/27/2011	07/01/2011	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure