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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3  
Docket Numbers 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287  
Schedule Change for Keowee Digital Governor  
Modification

Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) agreed to inform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by letter dated March 29, 2001, of any schedule changes associated with the Keowee Hydro Unit (KHU) digital governor modification. In that letter, Duke advised the NRC that it expected the digital governor upgrade to be implemented by the end of the first quarter of 2003. Duke also advised the NRC that an integrated schedule for all of the major Keowee upgrades and refurbishments was being developed. Duke has developed that integrated schedule. Based on this schedule, the digital governor upgrade, along with other Keowee upgrades, is now expected to be completed by August 2003 for one KHU and March 2004 for the other. Some of the rationale for the integrated schedule is provided below.

The Keowee upgrades must be performed during an innage period for the Oconee units. Based on the status of the Keowee modifications, the first available period is during Innage 76 (June to August 2003). Duke will also complete other significant upgrades on the KHUs concurrent with the digital governor work. Bundling this work will result in an overall reduced outage time for each KHU. The other work will include replacement of the exciters, batteries, and weld repair on the turbine along with draft tube concrete repair.

Duke expects the turbine weld repair and draft tube concrete repair work to take the longest time to complete. Based on the estimated work duration, Duke will not be able to complete the second unit work during the same innage. Therefore, the upgrades for the second unit are scheduled for Innage 77 (November 2003 to March 2004).

Because the work on each KHU will take place with the other KHU unit operable (watered up), Duke must insure that the out of

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service unit is fully isolated from the penstock. Duke estimates that a six-day dual unit outage will be required to restore one KHU unit to operable status. This estimate is based on our previous experience with KHU isolation. Following completion of the work on the isolated unit, Duke estimates that a four-day dual unit outage will be required to restore both units to operable status.

Since these outages exceed the current Technical Specification allowed outage times, Duke will submit a one-time license amendment request for this during early 2003.

If there are any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Boyd Shingleton at (864) 885-4716.

Very truly yours,



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Oconee Nuclear Site

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