



W. R. McCollum, Jr.  
Vice President

**Duke Energy**

Oconee Nuclear Station  
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March 4, 2002

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Duke Energy Corporation  
Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3  
Docket Numbers 50-269, 50-270 and 50-287  
Proposed Technical Specification Amendment  
Generic Letter 96-04 - Spent Fuel Storage Racks (TSCR 2000-01)


By letter dated December 28, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated February 15, 2001, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) submitted a License Amendment Request (LAR) to revise the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, Technical Specifications related to controls used to ensure acceptable margins of subcriticality in the Spent Fuel Pools (SFP) to account for Boraflex degradation. Duke has previously provided responses to requests for information by letters dated April 26, 2001, June 26, 2001, and October 31, 2001.

Duke's October 31, 2001 letter requested NRC approval of the TS change by December 28, 2001. However, due to delays, Duke requests NRC approval of the proposed TS amendments by March 29, 2002, with a subsequent 90-day implementation period. The current administrative minimum burnup limits for fuel storage in the Oconee SFPs are being revised to allow continued storage during the implementation period. Projections of Boraflex degradation in the Oconee SFPs indicate that, for extended operation of the SFPs through at least the end of June 2002, minimum fuel burnup requirements would increase by less than 0.50 GWD/MTU. This minor increase would not affect the status of the fuel that is currently stored in the Oconee SFPs, since all fuel assemblies that have experienced at least one cycle of reactor irradiation will still qualify for storage without restriction in the SFPs.

The above implementation revision does not change the conclusion provided in the No Significant Hazards Consideration evaluation or the Environmental Impact Assessment provided with the December 28, 2000 submittal.

Please contact R. C. Douglas at 864-885-3073 for additional information or questions concerning these submittals.

Very Truly Yours,



W. R. McCollum, Jr.  
Site Vice President  
Oconee Nuclear Station

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AFFIDAVIT

W. R. McCollum, Jr., states that he is Site Vice President of Duke Energy Corporation; that he is authorized on the part of said corporation to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this supplemental information for an amendment to the Oconee Nuclear Station Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 and Technical Specifications; and that all statements and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

  
W. R. McCollum, Jr., Site Vice President

Subscribed and sworn to me: 3-4-02  
Date

  
Connie M. Brangely, Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2-12-03  
Date

SEAL

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
March 4, 2002

Page 2

cc: L. A. Reyes  
M. C. Shannon  
L. E. Olshan  
V. R. Autry