



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

August 27, 2003

Duke Energy Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. R. A. Jones  
Vice President  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
7800 Rochester Highway  
Seneca, SC 29672

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - OCONEE  
NUCLEAR STATION**

Dear Mr. Jones:

On August 11, 2003, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the Oconee Nuclear Station. The mid-cycle review for Oconee involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 - December 31, 2003. 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 so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for Units 1 and 2 for the most recent quarter 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).

The performance of Unit 3 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix. This was the result of a fourth quarter 2002 Mitigating Systems cornerstone finding of low to moderate safety significance (White), which involved the inadequate installation of electrical connectors on the pre-staged Unit 3 high pressure injection pump emergency power supply cable from the auxiliary service water switchgear. Though this issue was closed out in a Supplemental Inspection performed during the second quarter of 2003 under Inspection Procedure (IP) 95001, the White finding had only been in effect for three of the four requisite quarters; therefore, it will remain through the third quarter of 2003.

For your information, the following issues are still under staff review as part of the Significance Determination Process and may warrant additional supplemental inspection if they are determined to be of greater than very low risk significance.

- Apparent Violation (AV) 05-0269,270,287/03-011-01 (failure to promptly identify and correct insufficient standby shutdown facility pressurizer heater capacity)

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- Unresolved Item (URI) 50-269,270,287/00-08-01 (potential high temperatures in the low pressure injection and high pressure injection pump rooms following loss of coolant accident scenarios)
- Licensee Event Report (LER) 50-287/01-03 and URI 50-269/02-02-03 (reactor pressure boundary leakage from reactor pressure vessel nozzle penetrations during operation)
- URI 50-269,270,287/02-03-01 (fire protection issue regarding standby shutdown facility manning delay)
- URI 50-269,270,287/02-05-04 (improper installation of feedwater line whip-restraints)
- LER 50-269/02-04 (potential loss of safety function from alternate boron dilution flowpath)
- URI 50-269,270,287/03-03 (degraded standby shutdown facility diesel cooling water grommets)

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections currently scheduled through September 30, 2004. We currently plan to conduct baseline, reactor vessel head replacement, and steam generator replacement inspections at your facility. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan is tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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 404-562-4550 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely

**/RA/**

Victor M. McCree, Acting Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, 50-287  
License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/ Activity Plan

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