

November 3, 2004

Mr. Ronald A. Jones  
Vice President, Oconee Site  
Duke Energy Corporation  
7800 Rochester Highway  
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3, SPRING 2003, END  
OF CYCLE 20 STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTION REPORT  
(TAC NO. MC0905)

By letters to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated May 29, June 23, and August 28, 2003, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) submitted reports summarizing the steam generator (SG) tube inspections for Oconee Nuclear Station (Oconee), Unit 3, performed during the end of cycle 20 refueling outage in spring 2003. In addition, Duke and NRC representatives participated in a conference call during the SG inspection activities; an NRC letter dated June 30, 2003, provided a summary of this conference call. Based on a review of these reports, the NRC staff requested that Duke provide additional information to support the review and your staff responded by letter dated September 22, 2004.

The NRC staff formally review all SG inspection summary reports submitted by licensees in accordance with the plant's technical specification (TS) requirements. Duke provided the scope, extent, methods, and results of the Oconee, Unit 3 SG tube inspections in the documents referenced above. Duke also described corrective actions (e.g., tube plugging or repair) taken in response to the inspection findings. Based on a review of the information provided, the NRC staff concludes that Duke has provided the information required by the Oconee, Unit 3 TSs. In addition, the NRC staff concludes that there are no technical issues that warrant follow-up action at this time since the inspections appear to be consistent with the objective of detecting potential tube degradation and the inspection results appear to be consistent with industry operating experience at similarly designed and operated units. It should be noted that Oconee, Unit 3 SGs will be replaced during the fall 2004 refueling outage.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Leonard N. Olshan, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-287

cc: See next page

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DATE	11/01/04	10/26/04	10/04/04	11/03/04

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