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February 8, 2010

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C., 20555-001

Subject: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC  
Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3  
Renewed Facility Operating License, DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55  
Docket Numbers 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287  
Oconee External Flood, Response to Request for Additional Information (RAI)

References:

1. NRC Letter From Joseph G. Giitter to Dave Baxter, "Information Request Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f) Related to External Flooding Including Failure of the Jocassee Dam, at Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee) (TAC Nos. MD8224, MD8225, and MD8226), dated August 15, 2008
2. Duke Letter From Dave Baxter to NRC Document Control Desk, "Oconee External Flood Analyses and Associated Corrective Action Plan," dated November 30, 2009
3. NRC Letter From Joseph G. Giitter to Dave Baxter, "Evaluation of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke), November 30, 2009, Response to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Letter dated April 30, 2009, Related to External Flooding at Oconee Nuclear Station; Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee)" (TAC Nos. ME3065, ME3066, and ME3067), dated January 29, 2010

On August 15, 2008, the NRC issued a request for information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Section 50.54(f) regarding the protection against external flooding at Oconee including a postulated failure of the Jocassee Dam (Reference 1). As part of its response, Duke provided details of Oconee external flood analyses and associated corrective action plans in a letter dated November 30, 2009 (Reference 2).

Reference 3 requests additional information for the NRC to determine if the analyses performed to date will demonstrate, for the entire Jocassee earthen works, that the Oconee site will be adequately protected from external flooding events. After receipt of Reference 3 on February 3, 2010, Duke determined that the information requested by some RAI questions require further analysis that cannot be completed within the 30 days requested.

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Reference 3 requests Duke to notify the NRC in writing within 5 days of receipt if Duke cannot provide the information requested within 30 days. Therefore, the following provides Duke's plans and schedule for providing the RAI responses:

- Duke plans to provide final responses to RAI questions 2, 3, 6 and 8, and interim responses to RAIs 1, 4, 5 and 7 within 30 days (by March 5, 2010)
- Duke will provide a schedule for completing the final responses to RAI questions 1, 4, 5 and 7 within 30 days (by March 5, 2010)

This letter contains security sensitive information. As such, Duke hereby requests the NRC withhold the letter from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390 (d)(1), "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding."

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Jeff Thomas, Fleet Regulatory Compliance Manager, 704-382-3438, or Bob Meixell, Oconee Regulatory Compliance, 864-873-3279.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Baxter", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dave Baxter, Vice President  
Oconee Nuclear Station

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bc:

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