



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

March 5, 2012

Mr. T. Preston Gillespie, Jr.
Site Vice President
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (REPORT 05000269/2011007, 05000270/2011007, AND 05000287/2011007)

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

On February 14, 2012, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Units 1, 2, and 3. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix. The NRC issued a Yellow Finding issued on December 6, 2011, for failing to ensure that the Standby Shutdown Facility (SSF) pressurizer heater breakers would function during all credited SSF events. At the Regulatory Conference held on November 16, 2011, Duke Energy Carolinas requested that this finding be evaluated for treatment as an "old design issue" as described in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, Operating Reactor Assessment Program. If the finding is determined to warrant treatment as an "old design issue," the finding will not be aggregated in the NRC's Action Matrix. If the finding does not warrant treatment as an "old design issue," Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 will move into the Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix, effective third quarter of 2011. You will be notified by separate correspondence of our decision in this matter. In addition to ROP baseline inspections, the NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95002, Supplemental Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area, to review the actions taken to address this finding when you have notified us of your readiness.

In our 2010 annual assessment letter (ML110630322), the NRC opened a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) with the cross-cutting aspect of procedure use [H.4(b)]. Your staff performed a common cause assessment in February 2011 to identify performance weaknesses and develop corrective actions to address these weaknesses. The NRC determined that an

SCCI still existed in our 2011 mid-cycle assessment letter (ML112440364), because of a concern with your staff's scope of effort and progress in addressing this SCCI. However, as documented in NRC Problem Investigation and Resolution (PI&R) inspection report 05000269, 270, 287/2011008 (ML120260740), the NRC determined that the corrective actions for the SCCI were appropriate to address the common causes identified in the common cause assessment. Also, the number of findings assigned this cross-cutting aspect has been reduced below the SCCI threshold value established in IMC 0305. Based on the PI&R inspection results and the reduction below the SCCI threshold value, this SCCI is closed. We note that some corrective actions are still open and there has not been sufficient time to assess the effectiveness of the completed corrective actions. Therefore, we will monitor your progress in addressing this cross-cutting aspect.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. We also plan on conducting Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/182, Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks; Inspection Procedure (IP) 71003, Post-Approval Site Inspection For License Renewal; TI 2515/177, Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems; and initial reactor operator licensing examinations. Additionally, the staff will continue its review of issues associated with fire, tornado, and high energy line break mitigation. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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 Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (404) 997-4607 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jonathan H. Bartley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan (03/01/2012 – 06/30/2013)

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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Jonathan H. Bartley, Chief
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cc w/encl: (See page 3)

X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

☐ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

☐ SENSITIVE

X NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: X Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12066A049

XSUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE ☐ FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP				
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/				
NAME	CRapp	JBartley	RCroteau				
DATE	3/5/2012	3/5/2012	3/5/2012				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DRP\PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS & REPORTS\EOC & MID-CYCLE\2011\END-OF-CYCLE\INPUT\RPB1\EOC LETTERS - FINAL\ONS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER.DOCX

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DEC

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Letter to T. Preston Gillespie, Jr., from Jonathan H. Bartley dated March 5, 2012

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION UNITS
1, 2, AND 3 (REPORT 05000269/2011007, 05000270/2011007, AND
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Distribution w/encl:

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ROP Reports

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)