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SUBJECT: Requests meeting w/NRC late in first quarter of 1997 to
provide update on status of Svc Water Sys upgrade project.
Commitment to complete upgrade on all 3 ONS units by end of
1997 needs to be extended.

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DUKE POWER

October 28, 1996

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, and -287
Service Water System Upgrade
Change of Commitment

On November 1, 1995, Duke Power met with the NRC to provide updated information on planned modifications to the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Service Water System. Following this meeting, a letter describing the conceptual design of the Service Water System upgrade was submitted on December 28, 1995. As described in the December 28th letter, Duke committed to complete the Service Water System upgrade on all three ONS units by the end of 1997.

Duke Power is committed to completing the Service Water System upgrade for all three units and has made significant progress this year with the detailed design of these modifications. As the detailed design work has progressed, the scope of the modification has significantly increased. Excavation activities for the modification are progressing more slowly than originally anticipated to assure that currently buried piping and cables that feed the plant are not damaged. In addition, the current three unit outage has impacted the engineering resources that were allocated to the Service Water System upgrade project. As a result, the schedule to complete the Service Water System modifications on all three units by the end of 1997 cannot be achieved.

Duke would like to meet with the NRC late in the first quarter of 1997 to provide an update on the status of the Service Water System upgrade project. By that time, more Service Water System upgrade design and implementation work will have been completed, and Duke Power will be in a

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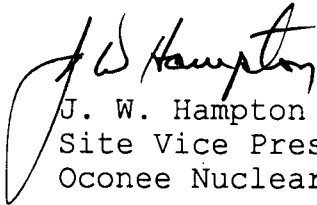
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position to discuss completion dates for these modifications with the NRC.

Please contact David Nix at (864) 885-3634, if there are any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. W. Hampton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name and title.

J. W. Hampton
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