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SUBJECT: Informs that util submittal will be delayed until 961205,
because of time required to complete assessment.

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DUKE POWER

November 5, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287
Oconee Spent Fuel Pool Safety Enhancement Backfit
Analysis

The NRC recently completed an industry review of spent fuel storage pool safety issues. The results of this review were issued in a memorandum to the Commissioners dated July 26, 1996. The NRC review identified potential concerns at a number of operating plants.

By letter dated September 20, 1996, the NRC formally notified Duke Power that it will be performing backfit analysis pursuant to 10 CFR 50.109(a)(3) regarding certain aspects of the spent fuel pool design at Oconee Nuclear Site. The NRC letter indicates that comments received from Duke Power by November 15, 1996, will be considered in developing plans for inspections and other activities associated with the planned regulatory analysis.

Duke Power intends to respond to the September 20, 1996 NRC letter with our assessment of the safety impact of the identified backfit concerns and the costs of potential modifications to the SFPs. However, because of the time required to complete this assessment, Duke Power's submittal

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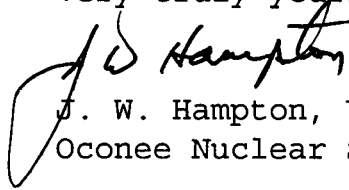
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November 5, 1996
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will be delayed until December 5, 1996. This delay in our response was discussed with the Oconee NRR Project Manager and was considered acceptable.

Very truly yours,



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