



50-2691270/287

*** SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION ***

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 20, 1996

Mr. J. W. Hampton
Vice President, Oconee Site
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1439
Seneca, SC 29679

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3 - OPERATIONAL
SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION (TAC NOS. M95264, 95265,
95266)

Dear Mr. Hampton:

This letter conveys the results and conclusions of the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) conducted by the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the Oconee Nuclear Station from May 20 through 23, 1996.

One purpose of the OSRE program is to evaluate a licensee's ability to respond in a contingency to an external threat by focusing on the interactions between operations and security in establishing priorities for protection of equipment and on the defensive strategies used. The OSRE also includes a safety/safeguards interface review to assure that safeguards measures do not adversely affect safe operation of the facility.

The OSRE conclusions are documented in the enclosed report (Part I, Operational Safeguards Readiness Review; and Part II, Safety/Safeguards Interface Review). This enclosure, which contains safeguards information of a type specified in 10 CFR 73.21, will not be placed in the Public Document Room, and must be protected against unauthorized disclosure.

The drills, exercises, and demonstrations observed by the team and the results of interviews conducted by the team indicated that a weakness existed in the protection strategy. On June 7, 1996, Duke Power presented lists of immediate, short term and long term actions to correct the weakness identified in the OSRE. A follow-up inspection was conducted in July 1996 by NRC's Region II Office with assistance by the OSRE team. Based on the observations, exercises, and analysis of the modified protection strategy during this inspection, it was determined that Oconee had demonstrated a generally effective protective strategy.

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J. W. Hampton

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As a separate matter, it was determined during the OSRE that effective provisions were in place to assure that safeguards measures did not adversely affect the safe operation of the facility.

The enclosed report does not convey any new regulatory requirement. Its findings have been considered with respect to your ability to meet the general performance objective and requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(a). We request that you review the report and provide a response to this office within 90 days after receiving this letter. Your response should address actions taken or planned since the July inspection, including specific comments on the long term actions specified by you at the June 7, 1996 Duke-NRC Management Meeting on OSRE Results.

If you have questions concerning this evaluation, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

LeMoine J. Cunningham, Chief
Safeguards Branch
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-269, 270, 287

Enclosure: Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation
(Part I, Operational Safeguards Readiness Review;
Part II, Safety/Safeguards Interface Review)

cc w/encl: Michael Scott
USNRC
Route 2, Box 610
Seneca, SC 29678

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