



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

August 27, 2003

Duke Energy Corporation
ATTN: Mr. R. A. Jones
Vice President
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - OCONEE
NUCLEAR STATION**

Dear Mr. Jones:

On August 11, 2003, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the Oconee Nuclear Station. The mid-cycle review for Oconee involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 - December 31, 2003. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for Units 1 and 2 for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green).

The performance of Unit 3 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix. This was the result of a fourth quarter 2002 Mitigating Systems cornerstone finding of low to moderate safety significance (White), which involved the inadequate installation of electrical connectors on the pre-staged Unit 3 high pressure injection pump emergency power supply cable from the auxiliary service water switchgear. Though this issue was closed out in a Supplemental Inspection performed during the second quarter of 2003 under Inspection Procedure (IP) 95001, the White finding had only been in effect for three of the four requisite quarters; therefore, it will remain through the third quarter of 2003.

For your information, the following issues are still under staff review as part of the Significance Determination Process and may warrant additional supplemental inspection if they are determined to be of greater than very low risk significance.

- Apparent Violation (AV) 05-0269,270,287/03-011-01 (failure to promptly identify and correct insufficient standby shutdown facility pressurizer heater capacity)

- Unresolved Item (URI) 50-269,270,287/00-08-01 (potential high temperatures in the low pressure injection and high pressure injection pump rooms following loss of coolant accident scenarios)
- Licensee Event Report (LER) 50-287/01-03 and URI 50-269/02-02-03 (reactor pressure boundary leakage from reactor pressure vessel nozzle penetrations during operation)
- URI 50-269,270,287/02-03-01 (fire protection issue regarding standby shutdown facility manning delay)
- URI 50-269,270,287/02-05-04 (improper installation of feedwater line whip-restraints)
- LER 50-269/02-04 (potential loss of safety function from alternate boron dilution flowpath)
- URI 50-269,270,287/03-03 (degraded standby shutdown facility diesel cooling water grommets)

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections currently scheduled through September 30, 2004. We currently plan to conduct baseline, reactor vessel head replacement, and steam generator replacement inspections at your facility. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan is tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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 document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 404-562-4550 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely

/RA/

Victor M. McCree, Acting Director
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

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Oconee
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	PS-SEC	- SECURITY - TI/ICM	4			
1, 2, 3	IP 2515/148	Inspection of Nuclear Reactor Safeguards - Interim Compensatory Measures		07/28/2003	09/19/2003	Safety Issues
1, 2, 3	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizat		07/28/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7113003	Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Str		07/28/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/28/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-MR	- MAINTENANCE RULE	1			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		09/02/2003	09/05/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP	- ISFSI	1			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/08/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	OL EP	- EP INSPECTION	1			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-HR	- RPV HEAD REPLACEMENT-U1	1			
1	IP 71007	Reactor Vessel Head Replacement Inspection		09/29/2003	10/03/2003	Other Routine
	EB2-ISI	- INSERVICE INSPECTION-U1	1			
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		09/29/2003	10/03/2003	Baseline Inspections
	OLEXAM	- INITIAL RETAKE EXAM	2			
1	V23225	OCONEE/RETAKE EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		10/14/2003	10/17/2003	Not Applicable
	CONT REP	- CONTAINMENT REPAIR	2			
1	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		11/03/2003	11/06/2003	Other Routine
	PS-RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION	2			
1	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		11/03/2003	11/07/2003	Other Routine
1, 2, 3	IP 71007	Reactor Vessel Head Replacement Inspection		11/03/2003	11/07/2003	Other Routine
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/03/2003	11/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		11/03/2003	11/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		11/03/2003	11/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/03/2003	11/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION	3			
1	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Other Routine
1, 2, 3	IP 71007	Reactor Vessel Head Replacement Inspection		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Other Routine
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Oconee
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

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				Start	End	
	PS-RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION	3			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
	OL EP	- EP EXERCISE	2			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		01/12/2004	01/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		01/12/2004	01/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		01/12/2004	01/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB2 HEAD	- REACTOR HEAD REPLACEMENT	1			
2	IP 71007	Reactor Vessel Head Replacement Inspection		03/29/2004	04/02/2004	Other Routine
	EB2-ISI	- INSERVICE INSPECTION	1			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		03/29/2004	04/02/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION	2			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		04/05/2004	04/09/2004	Other Routine
2	IP 71007	Reactor Vessel Head Replacement Inspection		04/05/2004	04/09/2004	Other Routine
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/05/2004	04/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION - ISFSI	1			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/05/2004	04/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB2SGRP	- STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT	2			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		04/19/2004	04/23/2004	Other Routine
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		05/10/2004	05/14/2004	Other Routine
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		05/24/2004	05/28/2004	Other Routine
	OL PREP	- INITIAL EXAM PREP	3			
1	V23216	OCONEE/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		05/24/2004	05/28/2004	Not Applicable
	OL EXAM	- INITIAL EXAM	3			
1	V23216	OCONEE/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		06/14/2004	06/25/2004	Not Applicable
	EB2-HS	- HEAT SINK	1			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		06/21/2004	06/25/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB1SSDPC	- SSDPC PRE-INSPECTION VISIT	2			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		07/26/2004	07/30/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB1SSDPC	- SAFETY SYS DESIGN & PERF CAPABILITY	5			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/16/2004	08/20/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/30/2004	09/03/2004	Baseline Inspections

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Oconee
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09/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

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				Start	End	
PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION			3			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections

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