



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

August 31, 2007

Duke Power Company LLC  
d/b/a Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC  
ATTN: Mr. Bruce H. Hamilton  
Vice President  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
7800 Rochester Highway  
Seneca, SC 29672

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

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

On August 14, 2007, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Oconee Nuclear Station for the first half of the calendar year 2007 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous twelve months. 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.

This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390" will include the physical protection review and a resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives with moderate degradation in safety performance. Plant performance for the first two quarters of 2007, as well as the fourth quarter of 2006, was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Action Matrix. This was the result of a fourth quarter 2006 Mitigating Systems cornerstone Performance Indicator (PI) reflecting performance at a level that may require additional NRC oversight (White), in conjunction with a third quarter 2006 Mitigating Systems cornerstone finding of low to moderate safety significance (White), affecting all three units. The White Mitigating Systems cornerstone PI (Emergency AC Power System) was the result of an extended forced outage on Keowee Hydroelectric Unit 2. The third quarter 2006 White finding involved the failure to effectively control maintenance activities, and therefore assess and manage the risk, associated with breaching the standby shutdown facility (SSF) external flood protection barrier. In addition, the Degraded Cornerstone performance of Oconee Unit 3 was also reflective of the aforementioned White PI (or finding) in conjunction with a fourth quarter 2006 White Mitigating Systems finding involving the failure to implement adequate foreign material exclusion controls for the Unit 3 reactor building emergency sump. In response to the Degraded Cornerstone performance in the last three quarters of the assessment period, a supplemental inspection (inclusive of the White Mitigating Systems PI and both findings) will be performed under Inspection Procedure (IP) 95002. Satisfactory NRC completion of the IP 95002 inspection is highly dependent on adequate root cause/extent of condition reviews by your staff. We have been discussing the status of these

reviews with your staff and have revised the date for the inspection accordingly. Our current plan is to perform the IP 95002 inspection during the last week of August 2007.

For your information, the following issue is still under staff review as part of the Significance Determination Process and may warrant additional supplemental inspections if it is determined to be of greater than very low risk significance:

- Unresolved Item (URI) 05000269,270,287/2006002-03, concerning excessive cycling of main steam safety valves (MSSVs) during standby shutdown facility-related events and the potential effects of a resulting stuck open MSSV.

Additionally, the staff is also continuing its review of licensing basis issues associated with tornado mitigation and high energy line break analysis.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2009. In addition to reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspection activities and the IP 95002 Supplemental Inspection discussed above, the plan currently includes non-ROP inspection activities involving operator licensing examinations and your Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

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 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).

The NRC is currently evaluating the scope and frequency of all baseline inspection procedures. If the results of the evaluation, or any other circumstances, cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change(s) as soon as possible. Please contact James H. Moorman, III at (404) 562-4647 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

William D. Travers  
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287, 72-04, 72-40  
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

DPC

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**Oconee**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2007 - 03/31/2009**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK 2</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23266	OCONEE/AUGUST 2007 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		09/10/2007	09/14/2007	Not Applicable
	<b>EB3-ISI - UNIT 3 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
3	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		11/05/2007	11/09/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB3SGISI - UNIT 3 STEAM GENERATOR ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
3	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		11/12/2007	11/16/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1-CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION</b>		<b>10</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		01/07/2008	01/11/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		01/28/2008	02/01/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		02/11/2008	02/15/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		02/25/2008	02/29/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-EP - EP EXERCISE</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB3-ISI - U-1 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		04/21/2008	04/25/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB3SGISI - U1 SG ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		04/28/2008	05/02/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION PREINSPECTION VISIT</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		06/16/2008	06/18/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB3 - MR - MAINT RULE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		06/23/2008	06/27/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-TFP - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION</b>		<b>5</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		07/01/2008	07/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		07/21/2008	07/25/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		08/04/2008	08/08/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION PUBLIC BASELINE</b>		<b>4</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		07/14/2008	07/18/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		07/14/2008	07/18/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/14/2008	07/18/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control P		07/14/2008	07/18/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		07/14/2008	07/18/2008	Baseline Inspections

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

Enclosure

**Oconee**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2007 - 03/31/2009**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION PUBLIC BASELINE</b>		<b>4</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		07/14/2008	07/18/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1-MODS - MODIFICATIONS-10CFR50.59</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		08/11/2008	08/15/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		08/11/2008	08/15/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23286	OCONEE/SEPTEMBER 2008 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		08/18/2008	08/22/2008	Not Applicable
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK 1</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23286	OCONEE/SEPTEMBER 2008 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Not Applicable
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK 2</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23286	OCONEE/SEPTEMBER 2008 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		09/22/2008	09/26/2008	Not Applicable
	<b>EB3ISI - U2 ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		10/27/2008	11/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB3SGISI - U2 SG ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		11/03/2008	11/07/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB3-HS - HEAT SINK</b>		<b>2</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL RQ - REQUAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		03/09/2009	03/13/2009	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION PREINSPECTION VISIT</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/16/2009	03/18/2009	Baseline Inspections