



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

August 26, 2002

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

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

Dear Mr. McCollum:

On August 5, 2002, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of Oconee Nuclear Station. In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," the mid-cycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating the performance of your Oconee facility for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 - December 31, 2002. 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 which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter (second quarter of 2002) was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix for Units 2 and 3. This was based on all associated inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all associated performance indicators (PIs) reflecting performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Unit 1 performance during the first and second quarters of 2002 was within the Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, due to the degraded Mitigating Systems Cornerstone continuing for five or more quarters. Unit 1 was in the Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column due to a finding of low to moderate safety significance (White) and a Heat Removal System PI that reflected performance at a level requiring increased regulatory response (White). The White inspection finding involved a tornado mitigation strategy utilizing the spent fuel pool as a suction source for the high pressure injection pump and was identified during the previous assessment period. This finding was closed after we completed our supplemental inspection during the second quarter of 2002. The White PI, which you recently reported, involves the maintenance-induced unavailability of the 1B motor driven emergency feedwater pump during the first and second quarter of 2001.

In accordance with Manual Chapter 0305, we considered two other Unit 1 White findings that were issued in the third quarter of 2002 in our assessment of performance for the second quarter of 2002. One of the findings affected the Barrier Integrity cornerstone and involved a problem with the abnormal operating procedure for maintaining and/or restoring containment integrity during reduced inventory conditions. The other Unit 1 White finding concerned a vulnerability to flooding in the auxiliary building from a rupture of high pressure service water

pipng. Although this finding was in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone, it met the criteria in MC 0305 for treatment as an "old design issue" and, therefore, was not considered in our evaluation of the performance of Unit 1 in the Action Matrix.

In response to the above issues, a supplemental inspection, commensurate with the guidelines of Manual Chapter 0305, will be performed to assess both the White Mitigating Systems PI and the White Barrier Integrity inspection finding for Oconee Unit 1. As for the "old design issue" discussed above, an additional supplemental inspection will be performed under Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." 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:

- 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)
- URI 50-269,270,287/00-08-04 (uncontrolled design changes to penetration room blowout panels)
- Licensee Event Report (LER) 50-269/02-02 (potential fire induced flooding of the standby reactor coolant makeup pumps)
- LER 50-287/2001-003 and URI 50-269/02-02-03 (reactor pressure boundary leakage during operation)

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2003. In addition to baseline inspection activities, the plan currently includes: (1) the 95001 Supplemental Inspection discussed above; (2) safety issue inspections conducted in accordance with Temporary Instruction 2515/145, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin 2001-01)"; and (3) routine inspections of activities associated with your Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. 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 addition, the NRC is in the process of finalizing a Temporary Instruction that will be used to review implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required by the Agency's Security Order to all commercial nuclear power plants dated February 25, 2002. Schedules have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that these inspections will begin within the next calendar quarter. Once finalized, the details will be communicated by separate correspondence.

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 Mr. Robert Haag at 404-562-4550 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Luis A. Reyes  
Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

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**Oconee**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2002 - 09/30/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>OL EP</b>	<b>- EMERGENCY EXERCISE</b>	<b>2</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		09/16/2002	09/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		09/16/2002	09/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/16/2002	09/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>SUP95001</b>	<b>- 95001 SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION (HPSW)</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		10/15/2002	10/18/2002	Supplemental Program
	<b>PS-RP</b>	<b>- RAD PROTECTION-ONSITE PREP AND ISFSI</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/21/2002	10/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>S/G-ISI</b>	<b>- S/G INSERVICE INSPECTION-U2</b>	<b>2</b>			
2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		10/21/2002	10/23/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-ISI</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP</b>	<b>- RAD PROTECTION</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP</b>	<b>- RADIATION PROTECTION @ DPC ENV LAB</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		01/08/2003	01/10/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		01/08/2003	01/10/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL RQ</b>	<b>- REQUAL INSPECTION</b>	<b>2</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		03/24/2003	03/28/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-ISI</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION-U3</b>	<b>1</b>			
3	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		04/28/2003	05/02/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP</b>	<b>- RAD PROTECTION-HEAD REPLACEMENT</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/28/2003	05/02/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/28/2003	05/02/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-HR</b>	<b>- RPV HEAD REPLACEMENT-U3</b>	<b>1</b>			
3	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		05/15/2003	05/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>S/G-ISI</b>	<b>- S/G INSERVICE INSPECTION-U3</b>	<b>1</b>			
3	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		05/19/2003	05/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-MODS</b>	<b>- MODIFICATIONS/10CFR50.59</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		06/16/2003	06/20/2003	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**  
**09/01/2002 - 09/30/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>EB2-MODS - MODIFICATIONS/10CFR50.59</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		06/16/2003	06/20/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23187	OCONEE/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		06/16/2003	06/27/2003	Not Applicable
	<b>EB2-MR - MAINTENANCE RULE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		06/30/2003	07/04/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP - RAD PROTECTION - ONSITE PREP AND ISFSI</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/25/2003	08/29/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EP - EP INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
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
	<b>PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION AND ISFSI</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-SGRP - SGRP-U1</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		09/22/2003	11/17/2003	Other Routine