



DUKE POWER

February 18, 1997

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Duke Power Company
Oconee Nuclear Site
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287
NRC Bulletin 93-02 Supplemental Information
Debris Plugging of Emergency Core
Cooling Suction Strainers

As a result of recent reviews of insulation installed within containment, Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) has been reviewing previously docketed correspondence on this issue. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the design basis requirements at ONS for permanently installed insulation.

In a letter dated June 9, 1993, Duke responded to NRC Bulletin 93-02, "Debris Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers". NRC Bulletin 93-02 requested licensees to identify fibrous air filters or other temporary sources of fibrous material, not designed to withstand a loss of coolant accident (LOCA), which are installed or stored in containment, and to take the necessary measures to assure the functional capability of the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS).

In a letter dated July 1, 1993, the NRC responded to the June 9, 1993, Duke letter. In the July 1, 1993, NRC letter, it was stated that Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) actions for NRC Bulletin 93-02 were considered complete based in part on the condition that "insulation installed inside containment either would not be transported to the emergency sump in the event of a LOCA or would be of small enough volume that the sump would not become clogged".

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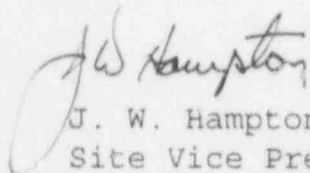
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The intent of the June 9, 1993, response was to describe how ONS met the specific requested actions of NRC Bulletin 93-02 regarding fibrous air filters and other temporary sources of fibrous material. There was no intent in this submittal to address or revise the design basis for use of already-existing permanent fibrous materials, or insulation generally, in containment. In the June 9, 1993, letter, Duke states that "Calculations OSC-3961 and OSC-3962 verify that insulation installed inside containment either will not be transported to the emergency sump in the event of a LOCA or will be of such volume that the sump screens will not become clogged". These calculations were performed to define requirements for permanent fibrous insulation that may be installed in future applications within containment. Duke believes that referencing these calculations for the response to NRC Bulletin 93-02, although a proactive measure, went beyond the bulletin's request. We also believe that the reference to these calculations, although intended to describe our direction regarding future applications of fibrous material within containment, could be interpreted as a change to our design basis regarding already existing fibrous insulation in containment.

ONS has met and continues to meet the commitments made in response to NRC Bulletin 93-02, as stated in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the June 9, 1993, submittal. However, there was no intent to expand the requested actions of this bulletin to include permanent insulation already installed in containment which was dispositioned through Generic Letter 85-22 and USI A-43.

If there are any questions or further information is needed, you may contact D. A. Nix at (864) 885-3634.

Very truly yours,



J. W. Hampton,
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