

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Public Affairs, Region II  
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 23T85, Atlanta, GA 30303  
Tel. 404-562-4416 or 4417 Fax 404-562-4980  
Internet: kmc2@nrc.gov or rdh1@nrc.gov

No: II-99-31  
Contact: Ken Clark or Roger Hannah

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Tuesday, May 25, 1999)

**NRC TEAM FINDS DUKE 'SCOPING AND SCREENING' PROCESS  
APPROPRIATE FOR OCONEE LICENSE RENEWAL; MEETING SCHEDULED**

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection team has concluded that Duke Energy Corporation has properly set out the scope of key plant systems, structures and components and is correctly implementing the methodology for screening them as described in its application for renewal of the operating licenses for the three-unit Oconee nuclear power station.

The inspection also determined that the references and documentation supporting the information in that application are in auditable and retrievable forms.

These findings are described in a report on the first license renewal inspection performed at the Oconee facility, located near Seneca, SC. The NRC staff will discuss the results of that inspection at a public meeting Wednesday afternoon, May 26. The plant is the second in the country to seek operating license renewal.

The meeting will be held from 1:00 until approximately 2:00 p.m. in the plant auditorium located just off Highway 183 about one mile east of the intersection with Highway 130. At the conclusion of the NRC staff's presentation, Regional Administrator Luis Reyes will discuss the license renewal process and schedule for the Oconee plant and be available to answer any questions from interested media representatives.

This inspection, which is the first of three reviews, was completed during the week of April 26. This "scoping and screening" inspection was conducted to verify that the company's license renewal program is implemented consistent with the company's license renewal application and pertinent regulations. Subsequent inspections will verify that programs are in place to manage the material condition of the systems, structures and components.

The full inspection report is posted on the NRC's web page at:  
<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/reports/renewal.htm>

#