9/11/2010

Journal

Duke names Oconee Nuclear site vice president

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — There will be a new man in charge of Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station next month.

Duke said Friday that T. Preston Gillespie has been named Oconee Nuclear site vice president effective Oct. 1.

Gillespie succeeds Dave Baxter, who has been named vice president, nuclear engineering for Duke Energy's nuclear fleet.

"Preston's experience in the nuclear power field spans more than two decades," said Bill Pitesa, senior vice president of nuclear operations for Duke Energy. "His previous roles in station operations and engineering at Oconee have given him a great foundation for the larger overall responsibility of the entire site."

Since 2008, Gillespie has served as Oconee's station manager with responsibility for all aspects of day-to-day operations and maintenance.



Gillespie

Scott Batson has been named to the station manager position Gillespie held. Batson is currently Oconee's engineering manager and has served in various positions at Oconee in operations, maintenance and engineering since joining Duke Energy in 1985.

Tom Ray will move from his current role as Catawba Nuclear Station's engineering manager to fill the Oconee engineering manager position. Ray has 21 years of experience with Duke Energy in the maintenance, engineering and safety areas.

The new man in charge of ONS began his career at ONS working in the reactor engineering division. He also worked at Catawba Nuclear Station, where he served as the superintendent of plant operations.

Gillespie has held a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Senior Reactor Operator License and is a registered professional engineer in South Carolina.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Clemson University. He and his wife Donna have been married 28 years and have a 21-year-old son.

Duke Energy Carolinas owns nuclear, coal-fired, natural gas and hydroelectric generation. That fuel mix provides approximately 19,000 megawatts of electricity capacity to approximately 2.4 million customers in a 22,000-square mile service area of North and South Carolina.