

# Duke Energy pays Oconee \$28.3 M in property taxes

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**WALHALLA** — Oconee County has deposited its fattest property tax payment in the bank.



**Nowell**

Treasurer Greg Nowell said that a check for \$28.3 million arrived in the mail from Duke Energy Corp. on Wednesday. The exact amount was \$28,353,308.33.

Nowell said the check came in mail postdated Jan. 17, which meant Duke avoided having to pay a 3 percent late-fee penalty that would have cost the company \$850,000 a day.

With the Duke payment, total taxes collected by Oconee topped \$77.4 million since the start of the current fiscal year on July 1, 2011.

During the same period a year ago, Oconee had collected \$82 million in taxes. However, Nowell expects this year's total to increase once checks in the mail are added on.

Tuesday was the deadline to pay county taxes without penalty. Almost 3,000 taxpayers filed through the Treasurer's Office to pay on time.

Nowell said \$3.2 million in taxes was collected in the office Tuesday based on taxable value of \$15.8 million.