SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - FORT CALHOUN STATION
(REPORT 50-285/03-01)

Dear Mr. Ridenoure:

On February 6, 2003, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Fort Calhoun Station. The end-of-cycle review for the Fort Calhoun Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through 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 that may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Fort Calhoun Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC’s Action Matrix, based on a White finding in the Public Radiation cornerstone. This finding involved radiation levels that exceeded required levels on the external surface of a shipment package. Your staff determined that no members of the public came in close proximity to the package during shipment; therefore, the shipment did not present an immediate safety concern to members of the public. Your staff took immediate corrective actions in response to this finding. This included performing investigations, reviews, and self-assessments. A supplemental inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, “Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area,” was performed in August 2002 to assess the adequacy of your evaluation and to review the corrective actions you have taken. Your efforts in this matter were determined to be satisfactory.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2004. In addition to the baseline inspection program, Temporary Instruction 2515/150, “Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin 2002-02),” will be performed at Fort Calhoun Station during this inspection cycle. 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 inspections in the last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review meeting.

As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections and conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. Based on our final determinations in this regard, we will notify you of any inspection plan changes.

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 this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Claude Johnson at (817) 860-8282 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-285
License: DPR-40

Enclosure:
Fort Calhoun Station Inspection/Activity Plan
cc w/enclosure:
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H. Berkow, NRR Project Director (HNB)
S. Dembek, Chief, Section 2, NRR/DLPM (SXD)
A. Wang, NRR Project Manager (ABW)
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.