

December 30, 2009- Oconee Groundwater Monitoring Well Project Update

Installation of the new wells onsite at Oconee is nearing completion (6 out of the 17 new wells still need to be completed). Some of the newly drilled wells have been sampled and counted. One of the wells within the protected area, GM-16DR, was found to be higher than the EPA limit of 20,000 pCi/L (the measured value was ~23,300 pCi/L). This result was based on what the licensee has termed a quick count sample that will not be used for reporting or communication purposes. Also, due to suspended solids in the sample, the "quick count" may not be accurate. When recounted a second time after the sample had time to settle, the activity decreased to ~16,000 pCi/L. Samples taken at the same time from that well location were also sent to Duke's environmental lab for evaluation, with results expected back by next week. Any communication will be based on these official lab results.

The results of the soil samples that were taken along the LWD line adjacent to the switchyards did not show any appreciable activity, therefore, the licensee could not conclude that the increase in activity in well GM-7R was due to a leak in the LWD line. The location of the source of the Tritium has yet to be determined and guesses on the location would be speculation.

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