

Davis, Angel

From: Bartley, Jonathan *BJ*
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 11:19 AM
To: Hutto, Andy; Stamm, Eric; Ottenberg, Geoffrey
Subject: FW: SC DHEC News Release -- going out shortly

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Trojanowski
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 10:10 AM
To: Luis Reyes; Victor McCree; Leonard Wert; Joel Munday; Jonathan Bartley; Roger Hannah; Joey Ledford; Jeff Griffis
Subject: FW: SC DHEC News Release -- going out shortly

Luis, et. al.--FYI, South Carolina, Department of Health and Environments Control will be issuing this shortly.....Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Thom W. Berry [mailto:BERRYTW@dhec.sc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 8:57 AM
To: Jim Beasley; Russell Berry; Clair Boatwright; Carolyn Boltin-Kelly; Mary N. Bright; Richard T. Caldwell; Doug Calvert; Becky Campbell; Stan L. Clark; Wanda C. Crotwell; Pam Dukes; Pamela G. Hawley; Shauna P. Hicks; Mark Hough; C. Earl Hunter; Robert Jackson; Bob King; Carol S. Kingry; Kimberly F. Lancaster; Harry L. Mathis; Daphne G. Neel; Eric Neil; James E. Owens; Claire Prince; Lawrence Larry M. Ragsdale; Rachelle Shirley; Chris Staton; Robin S. Stephens; Sandra Threatt; Susan Turner; Lisa F. Waddell MD
Subject: SC DHEC News Release -- going out shortly

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb 4, 2009

Tests show no negative effect on water near Oconee nuclear plant

COLUMBIA - Water testing outside the Oconee Nuclear Station in Oconee County showed the plant has not adversely affected the quality of the groundwater or surface water in the area, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control reported today.

"Tests show no radioactive materials in the groundwater coming from the plant," said Chris Staton, director of DHEC's Division of Waste Assessment and Emergency Response. "The results did not show any measurable levels of Tritium in any of the samples."

Staton said sampling of off-site public and private well water is part of DHEC's initiative to mirror a nuclear industry effort to determine groundwater quality on-site at nuclear power plants throughout the country. DHEC staff sampled public and private wells surrounding all four of South Carolina's commercial nuclear power plants. Laboratory analysis of samples from two remaining plants is nearly complete.

At the Oconee plant, operated by Duke Energy, DHEC staff tested eight locations surrounding the facility in Feb. 2008. Five of the samples were from private wells and three were surface water samples surrounding the facility. The samples were initially tested for Tritium, Gross Alpha and Gross Beta, and general bacterial water quality.

Community public wells are tested for Alpha and Beta radioactivity by using tests called "Gross Alpha Activity," "Gross Beta Activity," and if needed, "Gross Gamma Activity." These tests look at the total effects that these

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materials can have on human health over time. If these test results are above public drinking water standards, the water system is notified and a plan is developed to reduce levels. These same tests can also be applied to private wells.

"While tests showed the Oconee Nuclear Station has had no adverse affect on the local groundwater; the results did show levels of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials in four private wells," Staton said.

Staton said residents whose wells showed levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials or higher levels of bacteria were given information on how to reduce the intake of those materials. Due to the elevated levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials those four wells were also screened for Gross Gamma radiation. No Gamma radiation was detected in any of those wells.

Duke Energy officials are continuing their effort to characterize the groundwater on the Oconee property. DHEC staff will monitor and review those test results.

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Note to editors and reporters: A chart featuring Keowee-Ebenezer, Craig Hill, Hartwell and Brown A. B. Community well water testing results is available on DHEC's Web site at <http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/news/2009/nr20090112-01.htm>.

For more information:

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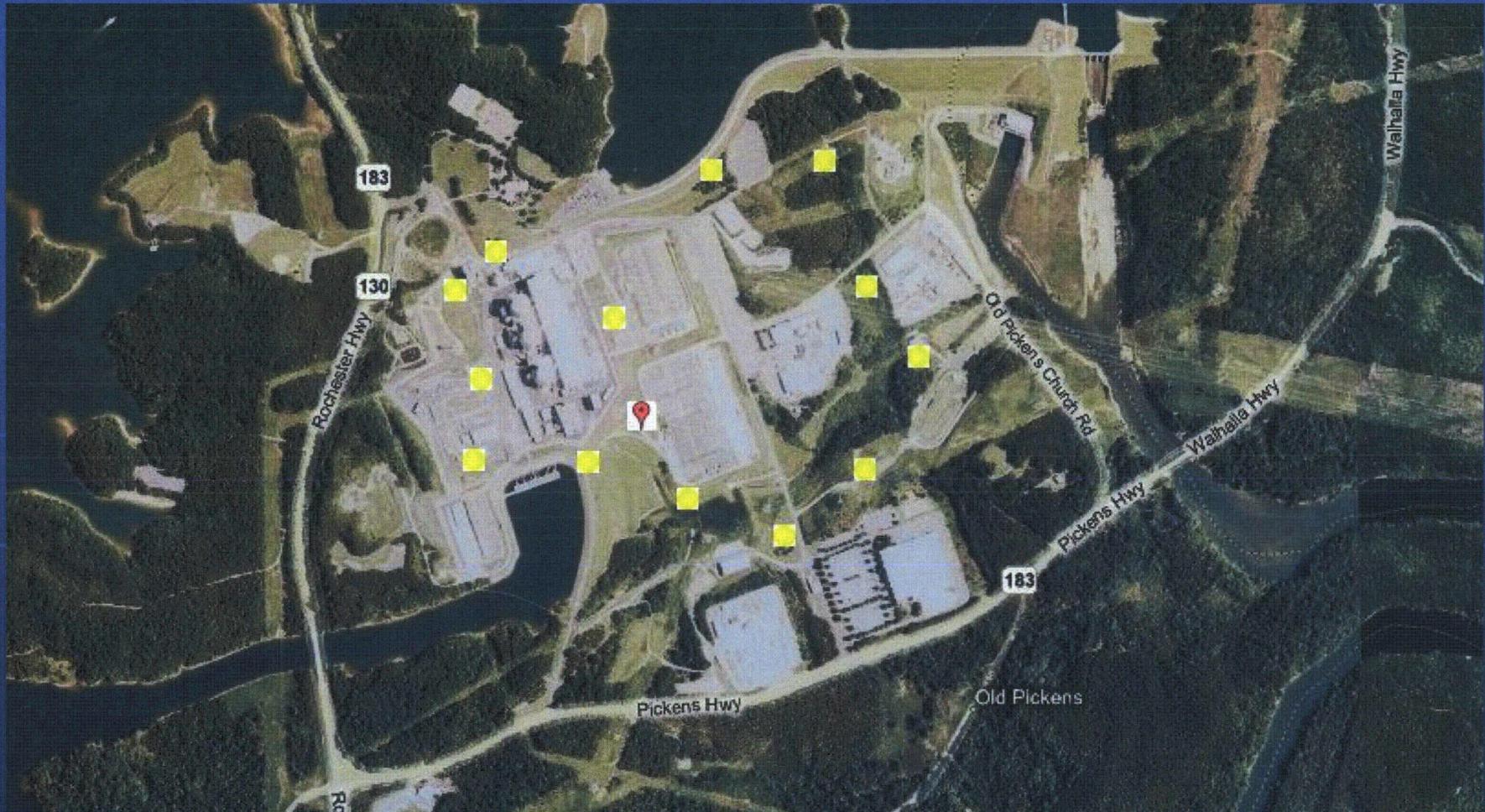
Tritium Facts

- Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen.
- It occurs naturally in air and water.
- It can be produced by nuclear weapons testing and nuclear reactor operation.
- Can be found in exit signs, aircraft dials, gauges, luminous paints, and wristwatches.
- Tritium is relatively harmless because it emits very weak radiation and leaves the body relatively quickly.

Tritium Facts (cont.)

- The EPA drinking water limit is 4 millirem per year.
 - This equals drinking 2 liters per day for 1 year at 20,000 picocuries per liter.
 - In 2008, no measurable tritium found offsite at Oconee according to SC DHEC.
- NRC has implemented a new Groundwater Contamination Task Force (GCTF).
- For more information, please go to the NRC tritium information website:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/grndwtr-contam-tritium.html>

Oconee Nuclear Station



Extensive network of ground water monitoring wells
(64 wells are currently in-place & being monitored)