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 DENTON, H.R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director
 STOLZ, J.F. Operating Reactors Branch 4

SUBJECT: Notifies that noble gas monitor-stack high-range radiation monitor (NUREG-0737, Item II, F.1(1)) reported as being operable in 830318 order, became inoperable on 830426. Caused by moisture contamination. New monitors ordered.

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May 19, 1983

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287

Dear Mr. Denton:

Your March 18, 1983 letter transmitted the NRC Order Confirming Certain Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Commitments on Post-TMI Related Issues, and required that Duke implement and maintain those noted NUREG-0737 items. Since the issuance of that order, the ONS Unit 2 Noble Gas Monitor-Stack High Range Radiation Monitor (NUREG-0737 Item II.F.1(1)), which was reported as being operable in the Order, became inoperable on April 26, 1983. Oconee's NRC Washington contacts, E. L. Conner, Jr. and John Suermann, were notified of this occurrence on April 29, 1983.

The cause of inoperability of the Unit 2 monitor is due to moisture contamination of the cable connectors causing erratic readings. Moisture contamination of the cable connector between the pre-amp and the shielded ion chamber causes the erratic readings. This is one of several instances of malfunction for this particular type monitor. The Units 1 and 3 monitors are also inoperable for the same reason, but were noted as inoperable before the Order was issued. Attempts will be made to return the units to operability. As noted in the Order for Units 1 and 3, if the repairs on the current monitors (Units 1, 2, and 3) are not successful, new monitors will be ordered, and the new operability date for the monitors will be April 30, 1984. The installed, control grade stack monitors can be used to provide an indication of noble gas release until the successful repair of the installed monitors, or the replacement of them, is complete.

Duke Power will take all reasonable actions to maintain items identified in the NRC Confirmatory Order of March 18, 1983 in an operable condition. However, should any item become inoperable which is not specifically covered under an existing Technical Specification, Duke will report the details of the status change in a letter report to the NRC, and will exert its best efforts to restore that item to operability in a timely manner. We believe that this philosophy is consistent with the intent of the Confirmatory Order to implement and maintain these NUREG-0737 items.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Tucker

Hal B. Tucker

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
May 19, 1983
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cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
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Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. J. C. Bryant
NRC Resident Inspector
Oconee Nuclear Station

Mr. John F. Suermann
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
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