

September 27, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II/79-3

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date

FACILITY: Duke Power Company
Oconee, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287
Seneca, South Carolina

SUBJECT: EFFLUENT RELEASE EXCEEDING REGULATORY LIMIT

On September 23 and September 25, the licensee made radioactive liquid waste discharges (2 total) which exceeded the maximum permissible concentration (MPC) specified in Technical Specification 3.9.3 due to inadequate dilution water flow. The release on September 23 was 2.7 times MPC and the release on September 25 was 2.94 times MPC. The principal isotope present in both discharges was tritium.

Dilution water is normally provided by the Keowee Hydro Units. The hydro units were out of service for maintenance and not providing dilution flow. The release calculations did not consider the lack of dilution flow. Additional dilution flow was provided from the overflow from settling ponds but the concentrations on September 25 at the site boundary was greater than MPC. The licensee issued a news release on September 26 concerning this event. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release. Media interest is expected due to close attention given to releases of radioactive material. The States of South Carolina and Georgia have been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 2:00 p.m. on September 26. This information is current as of 10:15 a.m. on September 27.

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