

FEB 23 1982

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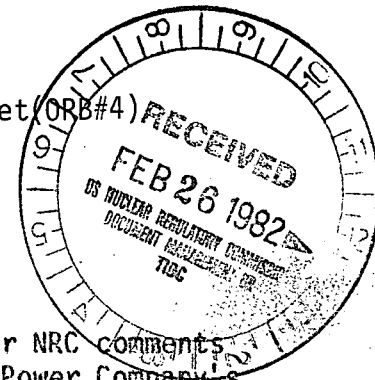
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The Honorable Butler Derrick  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515



Dear Congressman Derrick:

This letter is in response to your January 22, 1982 request for NRC comments on Mr. Plotnik's January 10, 1982 inquiry concerning the Duke Power Company's intention to reduce low-level radioactive wastes.

By letter dated December 14, 1981, Duke Power Company informed the NRC that it is their intention to file a request for approval to incinerate low-level radioactive waste at the Oconee Nuclear Station. To date, we have not received this filing. It is our understanding that a new facility is being designed for the Oconee Nuclear Station which will process low-level radioactive waste materials, both solid and liquid, through equipment commonly used for this purpose and also by use of a Fluid Bed Incinerator designed by Aerojet Energy Conversion Company. Since present NRC Regulations (10 CFR 20.305) prohibit the disposal of any licensed material by incineration except as specifically approved by the Commission, prior approval by the NRC is required before operation of the proposed facility may proceed.

Mr. Plotnik questions whether processes involving evaporation and incineration can be done without increasing the radiation released from the facility. The Oconee Nuclear Station continues to operate well within the NRC established radioactive effluent release limits while employing evaporation processes for volume reduction of low-level liquid radioactive wastes. In addition, Duke Power Company has committed to keep radioactive effluent releases as low as reasonably achievable.

Upon receipt of a request from Duke Power Company to allow incineration of low-level radioactive wastes at the Oconee Nuclear Station, the NRC will publish a "Notice of Proposed Issuance" in the Federal Register which will allow a 30 day public comment period on the proposed operation of this facility. The NRC will also, concurrent with receiving public comments, review the proposed design to ensure that the applicable Regulations and Regulatory Guides have been satisfied. We will also independently verify that the operation of the proposed facility will maintain radioactive effluents to levels as low as reasonably achievable. The results of our review will determine what restrictions in the Technical Specifications, in

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The Honorable Butler Derrick

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addition to those already applicable, will be required for the NRC to allow operation of the facility.

We trust that this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for  
Operations

\*See previous NRC 318 for concurrence.

OFFICE ▶	ORB#4:DL <i>W</i>	C-ORB#4:DL	C-E7SB:OSI <i>W</i>	AD-OR:DL <i>W</i>	D:DL <i>W</i>	D:JRR <i>W</i>	EDO <i>W</i>
SURNAME ▶	PWagner/cb	JStolz*	WGamm/11	Novak	Persenhut	HDenton	WDircks
DATE ▶	2/16/82	2/8/82	2/16/82	2/16/82	2/16/82	2/17/82	2/16/82

OCA  
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2/22/82

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We trust that this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

C-ETSB:DSI  
 WGammill 2/ /82

William J. Dircks

D:NRR  
 HDenton  
 2/ /82

OFFICE	ORB#4:DL	C-ORB#4:DL	AD-OR:DL	Executive Director for	D:DL	EDO
SURNAME	PWagner/cb	JStoltz	TNovak	Operations	DEisenhut	WDircks
DATE	2/9/82	2/9/82	2/ /82		2/ /82	2/ /82

82-52

No. ~~3910~~

Logging Date 1/26/82

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO:  Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Exec. Dir./Oper. \_\_\_\_\_  Gen. Counsel \_\_\_\_\_

Cong. Liaison \_\_\_\_\_  Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_

Public Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  Inspector & Auditor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  Policy Evaluation \_\_\_\_\_

Incoming: Rep. Butler Derrick, Const REF

From: Donald T. Plotnik

To: OCA Date 1/22/82

Subject: Duke Power Co's plan to build a fac that will reduce low-level waste volumes

- Prepare reply for signature of:
  - Chairman
  - Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_
  - EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY, IA, PE
  - Signature block omitted
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Return original of incoming with response

For direct reply\* - Suspense: Feb 22

For appropriate action

For information

Remarks: OCA to Ack, docket

For the Commission: billie a champ

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Correspondence and Records Branch

NRC-62

Rec'd Off. EDO  
 Date 1-27-82  
 Time 12:30

ACTION SLIP

FROM: Rep. Butler Derrick		ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO. 11432	
TO: Kammerer		COMPL DEADLINE		2/22/82		DATE OF DOCUMENT	
DESCRIPTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		ACKNOWLEDGMENT				1/22/82	
Enclosing ltr Donald T. Plotnik re Duke Power Company's plan to build facility that will reduce low-level waste volumes		INTERIM REPLY				PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:	
CLASSIFIED DATA		FINAL REPLY		15/ Rehn for		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN	
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.		FILE LOCATION		Duchs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
NUMBER OF PAGES		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS		2/22/82		OTHER:	
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.		SECY-82-52		<del>Due Due 1/15/82</del>			
ASSIGNED TO:		INFORMATION ROUTING		LEGAL REVIEW		<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY	
DATE		Davis		ASSIGNED TO:		NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS	
1/27/82		Cunningham, ELD		2. Hanauer		NOTIFY:	
1/28/82		Linda Underwood		3. Mattson		<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR	
2/5/82		Case/Denton		4. Vollmer		EXT. _____	
2/3/82		1. PPAS		5. Thompson		COMMENTS, NOTIFY:	
		EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS		6. Check		EXT. _____	
				7. Snyder		JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

NRC FORM 232 (11-75)

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