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       50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co.      05000287  
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 PARKER, W.O.      Duke Power Co.  
 RECIP. NAME      RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 DENTON, H.R.      Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
 REID, R.W.      Operating Reactors Branch 4

SUBJECT: Supplements until 790925, 1019 & 1219 ltrs re design & use of containment purge sys. Requests NRC concurrence in scope of mods to permit purging during operations above cold shutdown.

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WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT  
STEAM PRODUCTION

April 15, 1980

TELEPHONE: AREA 704  
373-4083

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

Attention: Mr. R. W. Reid, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4

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

Dear Sir:

This letter supplements my letters of September 25, October 19, and December 19, 1979 which provided information on the design and use of the containment purge system at Oconee.

An evaluation of the Oconee containment purge system has been conducted utilizing the guidance provided by the Staff. The results of this evaluation indicate that modifications can be made to the purge system to further reduce the possibility of debris adversely affecting the isolation valve and preventing its complete closure. These modifications would consist of reinforcement of duct work immediately in front of the purge isolation valves inside containment to assure that they do not collapse and the addition of flow screens in the duct work to prevent debris from entering this same area immediately in front of the valves. Additionally, the existing valves can be analyzed to determine whether or not they will close under postulated accident conditions. If necessary, modifications to the existing valves would be made to further assure their operability during postulated accident conditions. These efforts will proceed following NRC concurrence that they would be sufficient to allow the purge system to be utilized during power operation to the extent required consistent with operational and personnel exposure requirements.

Furthermore, an analysis of the reduction in the containment pressure resulting from the partial loss of containment atmosphere during the accident for ECCS back pressure determination could be performed and the results could be available approximately three months following authorization to proceed. Similarly, analytical work to quantify the amount of containment atmosphere released through the purge isolation valves during the time required for them to close following a postulated accident could also be performed.

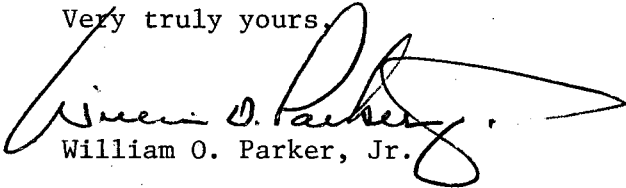
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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
April 15, 1980  
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Once the scope of modifications to the purge system is identified, the above analytical efforts would be conducted and be used to provide justification in support of use of the purge system during operation. However, if the purge system cannot be suitably modified to support purging during operations above cold shutdown then there is no benefit to the performing of these analyses. NRC concurrence in the scope of modification described above is requested.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William O. Parker, Jr.", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William O. Parker, Jr.

RLG:scs