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 FACIL: 50-269 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Duke Power Co.  
 50-270 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Duke Power Co.  
 50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co.

DOCKET #  
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AUTH. NAME: PARKER, W.O.  
 AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Duke Power Co.  
 RECIP. NAME: DENTON, H.R.  
 RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director

SUBJECT: Responds to NRC 810220 request for util committment to surveillance of fuel assembly holddown springs in facility cores. Documents util plans to inspect fuel assemblies for broken holddown springs during upcoming refueling outages.

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# DUKE POWER COMPANY

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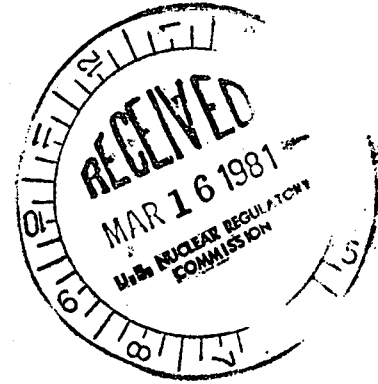
March 12, 1981

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: J. F. Stolz, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4

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



Dear Sir:

Mr. R. W. Reid's letter of February 20, 1981 requested that Duke Power Company commit to surveillance of the fuel assembly holddown springs presently in the Oconee Units 1 and 2 cores. This letter documents Duke's plans to inspect fuel assemblies for broken holddown springs during the upcoming refueling outages for Oconee Units 1 and 2.

The Oconee 1 and 2 inspections for broken holddown springs will be conducted in the same manner as was the inspection during the recent Oconee 3 refueling outage; that is:

- (1) The entire "old" core will be inspected with an underwater television camera and video-taped during the "core scan" prior to beginning fuel movement. Core components will not be removed for this inspection.
- (2) During refueling and the core verification following refueling, each of the recycled fuel assemblies which contained a component assembly during the "core scan" will be reinspected and videotaped with the component assembly removed.

New fuel assemblies will also be inspected during the core verification, but component assemblies which may be present will not be removed.

- (3) Any broken holddown springs which are found will be reported to the NRC.

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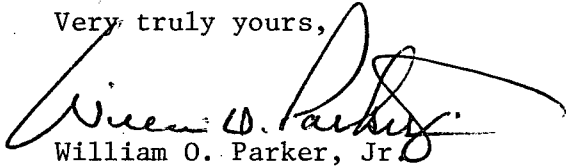
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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
March 12, 1981  
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Based upon the final statement in Mr. Reid's February 20 letter, with the  
submittal of this letter, Duke Power Company considers the matter of hold-  
down spring failure closed with respect to Oconee.

Very truly yours,



William O. Parker, Jr.

FTP:pw