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 Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Provides info re inoperability of Unit 2 reactor bldg normal sump level instruments as required by 841008 proposed Tech Spec 3.5.6. Normal sump level monitors declared inoperable on 870504. Cause of problem not determined.

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May 20, 1987

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

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

Dear Sir:

Duke Power Company (Duke) is providing the following information concerning inoperability of the Unit 2 Reactor Building normal sump level instruments as required by the proposed Technical Specification 3.5.6. The proposed Technical Specification 3.5.6, submitted on October 8, 1984 in response to Generic Letter 83-37, Item II.F.2, requires a 30 days report to NRC if the required normal sump level instrumentation is inoperable and not returned to operable status within 7 days.

On April 29, 1987 Oconee Nuclear Station personnel initiated an investigation of the discrepancies between the normal sump level trains A and B (LP-120, LP-113) level indications. On May 4, 1987 with approximately 9 inches of water in the sump, the train A sensor at 12 inches above the sump bottom indicated "dry" while the train B sensor at the same location indicated "wet". The voltage from the sensors at 3, 6 and 12 inches from the sump bottom on both trains A and B were out of tolerance as specified in the Oconee calibration procedures. The indications of trains A and B sensors at 12 inches above the sump bottom remained unchanged after the sump was pumped down to less than 4 inches.

The sump level was increased to approximately 18 inches on May 5, 1987. The level indications from the 12 inches elevation sensors on both train A and B remained unchanged. The sensors at the 3, 6 and 18 inches elevation did not appear abnormal except for out of tolerance values for 3 and 6 inches elevation sensors.

No entry to the Reactor Building was made to inspect the normal sump level detectors. However, an attempt to clean debris off the detectors was made by filling the sump several times with demineralized water. This did not help. The sensors at 12 inches elevation still did not indicate a level change.

The normal sump level monitors were declared inoperable on May 4, 1987. The cause of the problem has not been determined. The instrument vendor, FCI, Inc., has been contacted to help explain the cause of the instrument failure. Duke plans to inspect and clean the level detectors during the next outage of sufficient length or the next refueling shutdown. Upon inspection findings, appropriate corrective actions will be taken to return the normal sump level monitor to operable status.

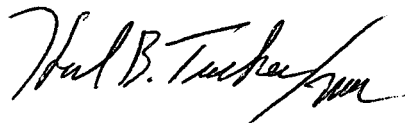
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The normal sump level detector is still capable of indicating the relative level changes. In addition, the wide range and emergency sump level monitors are operable and capable of providing indication of the water level in the containment.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

MAH/42/sbn

Attachment

xc: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator
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NRC Resident Inspector
Oconee Nuclear Station

Ms. Helen Pastis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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