

FROM
Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.
Thomas B. Cochran
Washington, D. C.

CONTROL NUMBER
6699

FILE LOCATION

DATE OF DOCUMENT
2/11/74

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE
3/1/74

TO
L. Manning Huntzinger

ACTION PROCESSING DATES
 Acknowledged _____
 Interim Reply _____
 Final 2/11

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
 _____ Chairman
 _____ Director of Regulation
X **Gianbuzso** *V.A. [unclear]*

DESCRIPTION **Ltr** Original Copy Other
Ref article in Nucleonics West, Jan. 31 re a steel bolt rattling around in Orasco 2 reactor vessel - asks why AEC believes this reactor should be allowed to operate with this problem

REMARKS

REFERRED TO	DATE
Gianbuzso Election	2/15/74
<i>V. Williams</i>	<i>2/15/74</i>
<i>Schmitt</i>	<i>2/15</i>
<i>Peltier</i>	<i>2/15</i>

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE RECOMMENDED? _____
 Cys:
Huntzinger
O'Leary
Docter Files) 59-270
FBI
LPDR

FROM Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. Thomas D. Costain Washington, D. C.	CONTROL NUMBER 6699	FILE LOCATION
TO E. Manning Martin	DATE OF DOCUMENT 2/11/74	ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE 3/1/74
	ACTION PROCESSING DATES Acknowledged _____ Interim Reply _____ Final _____	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF: _____ Chairman _____ Director of Regulation X Glabasso

DESCRIPTION **ltr** Original Copy Other

**Ref article in Harlequin West, Jan. 91 re a steel bolt
rotting around in Core 2 reactor vessel - asks why AEC
believes this reactor should be allowed to operate with
this problem**

REMARKS

REFERRED TO	DATE	IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE RECOMMENDED? _____
Glabasso 8/action	2/15/74	
	1/1/74	Cys: Martinez O'Leary Decker (filed) 50-270 FBI LEER
Pub. file	2/15	

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

1710 N STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
202 783-5710

Palo Alto Office
664 HAMILTON AVENUE
PALO ALTO, CALIF. 94301
415 327-1080

11 February 1974

New York Office
15 WEST 44th STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
212 869-0150

Mr. L. Manning Muntzing
Director of Regulations
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Muntzing:

If it is believed that there is a 5/8 inch diameter steel bolt rattling around in the OCONEE-2 reactor vessel (Nucleonics Week, Jan. 31, 1974, p. 10), why does the AEC believe that this reactor should be allowed to operate with this problem?

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Cochran

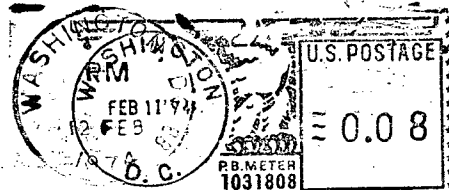
Rev'd. Off. of Dir.
of Licensing
Date 2/15/74
Time 4:25 PM

Rec'd Off. Dir. of Reg.
Date 2/15/74
Time 11:30

DR-6699

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

1710 N STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036



Mr. L. Manning Muntzing
Director of Regulations
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Docket File

FEB 21 1974

Docket No. 50-270

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. Thomas B. Cochran
1710 N Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Cochran:

Your letter to Mr. L. Manning Mantzing inquiring about the problem at Oconee Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2 was referred to me for reply. I hope the following account will answer your question fully.

Prior to the time of the Nucleonics Week, January 31, 1974 report, there were indications that a very small object of unknown origin was loose but captured in the bottom head of the Oconee Unit 2 reactor vessel below the core lower grid support structure. The indications were received from the very sensitive loose parts monitoring system installed on Oconee Unit 2. The signals received were of very low energy intensity (below the alarm setting) and could be detected only during single pump operation and flow coast down.

Also prior to the Nucleonics Week report an extensive static investigation and system review were conducted to isolate the potential cause for the indications and to analyze any safety or operational consequences arising from postulated origins of the object. After concluding that there was no undue risk to the public from continued operation, and since Oconee Unit 2 is still undergoing its startup testing program which is for the purpose of evaluating the system's performance, it was decided that further testing during operation with close monitoring of vital system conditions would enhance the investigation of the loose object indications. A completed evaluation of the condition was anticipated upon completion of the 75% power testing program and prior to proceeding to 100% power for commercial operation.

Subsequent to the above on January 22, 1974, Oconee Unit 2 developed a main coolant pump seal problem during startup. Examination of one coolant pump revealed that a very small cap screw was missing from the pump

62

Mr. Thomas B. Cochran

- 2 -

impeller main hub-nut locking device. This fact may be unrelated to the pump seal problem, but since the cap screw is in the right size range to be the loose object in the vessel lower head, the reactor vessel is being opened to "fish" for the object. This search will probably delay reactor operations until April 1974 but should prove to be fruitful to this investigation.

If you have any further questions please contact us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Voss A. Moore, Assistant Director
for Light Water Reactors, Group 2
Directorate of Licensing

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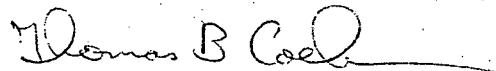
New York Office
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