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ACCESSION NBR: 8409280177 DOC. DATE: 84/09/24 NOTARIZED: NO DOCKET #  
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 50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co. 05000287

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 STOLZ, J. F. NRC - No Detailed Affiliation Given

SUBJECT: Advises of actions taken to restore operability of noble gas monitor - stack high-range radiation monitor, per NRC 830318 confirmatory order re NUREG-0737 Item II, F.1. Requests order be amended to reflect new implementation schedule.

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NOTES: AEOD/Ornstein: 1cy. 05000269  
 OL: 02/06/73  
 AEOD/Ornstein: 1cy. 05000270  
 OL: 10/06/73  
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September 24, 1984

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

Attention: J. F. Stolz

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

Dear Sir:

By letter dated March 18, 1983, the NRC transmitted a confirmatory order concerning certain Post-TMI actions. This order requires that Duke implement and maintain certain TMI modifications among which is the Noble Gas Monitor-Stack High Range Radiation monitor (NUREG - 0737 Item II.F.1 (1)).

Duke had notified the NRC of a problem with the Unit 2 monitor by a May 19, 1983 letter, describing the problem (moisture contamination of the cable connectors causing erratic readings), steps being taken to resolve the problem and dates for completing the specified steps.

The monitors installed at Oconee (Victoreen model 847C-1) continue to be unreliable and are presently inoperable. Duke has taken the following actions to restore operability to these monitors.

- o Develop and issue a specification to purchase three high range gas radiation monitors to replace the three defective monitors presently installed at Oconee.
- o Duke estimates that the replacement monitors can be delivered to Oconee by June 1, 1985. However, installation dates cannot be provided at this time without knowing design details. Upon establishing a firm design, Duke will provide schedule information in regard to the final installation dates for the replacement monitors.

Duke has implemented the following compensatory measures while pursuing the above specified actions for restoring these monitors to operability.

- o On each unit a gas radiation monitor is installed and is operable which can monitor Noble gases in the unit vent. The range for these monitors is only one decade less than the range for the presently installed inoperable high range gas radiation monitors.

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

September 24, 1984

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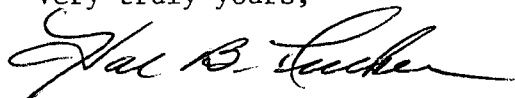
- o Procedures are in place to take grab samples from the unit vents, if required during the course of an accident.
- o Offsite doses can be estimated from the high range containment monitors (NUREG-0737 Item II.F.1.(3)), that are currently operating.

In addition to the above compensatory actions taken, Duke will implement an interim modification to restore these monitors for each unit to operability. This will involve replacing the Victoreen model 847C-1 monitor with a Victoreen model 847-1 monitor. Currently a model 847-1 monitor is installed on Unit 1 and has been operating successfully for approximately three months. This model (847-1) has not been qualified for use as a high range monitor; however, Duke's experience thus far seems to indicate that model 847-1 is far more reliable than the qualified model 847C-1. Duke will complete the implementation of model 847-1 monitors by October 15, 1984.

Duke believes that the course of action described in this letter is the most effective and expeditious means that could be taken to restore the high range noble gas effluent monitors to operability and is consistent with the intent of the confirmatory order to implement and maintain this NUREG-0737 item.

Duke requests that the confirmatory order transmitted by a March 18, 1983 letter be amended to reflect the new schedule for implementation of this item at Oconee.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

PFG/mjf

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