



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
230 PEACHTREE STREET, N.W. SUITE 818
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

FEB -1 1977

In Reply Refer To:
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50-269/76-5
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50-287/76-5

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. William O. Parker, Jr.
Vice President, Steam Production
P. O. Box 2178
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Gentlemen:

This refers to the discussions held with Messrs. Thies and Tucker on February 1, 1977, regarding the secondary system leakage that occurred on January 17, 1977, resulting in a discharge of in excess of three Curies of I-131 to the Keowee River by way of the settling basins.

With regard to this occurrence, we understand that you have undertaken or will undertake the following actions:

- a. Prepare and use as needed, a procedure to minimize radioactivity discharges from the secondary system to turbine building sumps and subsequently to the environment in the event of future primary to secondary system leakage. This procedure will include use of the condensate system filter demineralizers to reduce the activity levels and transfer of contaminated water to the liquid radioactive waste treatment system. The procedure will be implemented on or before February 4, 1977.
- b. Prepare and use as needed, a procedure to minimize the volume of liquids released to the turbine building and Powdex sumps in the event they become highly contaminated. The procedure will be implemented on or before February 4, 1977.
- c. Setup and maintain in operating order temporary pumps and hoses as necessary to provide a means of transferring contaminated water from the turbine building and Powdex sumps to the liquid radioactive waste system and incorporate the use of this equipment into

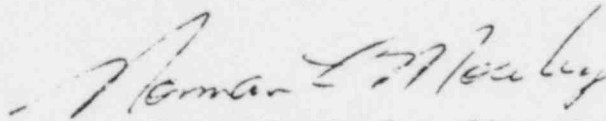
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appropriate plant procedures. This equipment is to be made available and ready for use on or before February 15, 1977, and further, this equipment will be maintained until permanent corrective actions have been implemented.

If our understanding of your planned actions as described above is not in accordance with the actual plans and actions being implemented, please contact this office immediately.

Very truly yours,



Norman C. Moseley, Director
Region II



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II
230 Peachtree Street N.W., Suite 818, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

No: II-77-07
Contact: Ken Clark
Telephone: (404) 221-4503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, February 2, 1977)

NRC SAYS DUKE POWER COMPANY WILL ACT TO LIMIT RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES INTO KEOWEE RIVER AT OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION NEAR SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Inspection and Enforcement in Atlanta said today that Duke Power Company will take action to improve management of systems containing radioactive liquids at Oconee Nuclear Station near Seneca, South Carolina, so as to limit the discharge of radioactivity into the Keowee River to a minimum.

NRC Regional Director N. C. Moseley said these actions are being taken following unplanned release of radioactive Iodine-131 into the river in mid January which was in excess of NRC regulations governing plant operations.

Water samples taken following the release by South Carolina health officials indicated that radioactivity in the river at the nearest drinking water station posed no threat to public health and safety.

Oconee Unit 1 experienced a steam generator tube leak on January 15. During tests to determine the location of the leak, a gasket failure released water to the turbine building which drained to a sump and subsequently to holding ponds which empty into the Keowee River.

Moseley said Duke officials have agreed to incorporate into plant operations the use of additional equipment and procedures to improve the use of liquid radioactive waste treatment systems and to improve control of contaminated water released to the river.

C O P Y

For: KEN CLARK

February 2, 1977

From: Corporate Communications Department
Duke Power Company
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENECA, S. C. -- Duke Power Company announced today that after discussions with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it was adding certain procedures and hardware to the operation of its Oconee Nuclear Station near here.

H. B. Tucker, Manager of Duke's Nuclear Division, said that the action was taken to prevent the inadvertent release of water containing some radioactivity such as occurred two weeks ago when some water from the turbine building sump at Oconee was pumped into outside holding basins and some of this water was permitted to enter the Keowee Hydro Station's tailrace for a short time. This release was diluted by the flow of water from operation of the Keowee Hydro-Station which was running for the production of electricity during the recent frigid weather.

Both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Duke Power have agreed that the occurrence resulted in no effect whatsoever on public health and safety.

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Distribution: A B C D

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