



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS  
REGION II - SUITE 818  
230 PEACHTREE STREET, NORTHWEST  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

TELEPHONE: (404) 826-4503

SEP 11 1973

H. D. Thornburg, Chief, Field Support and Enforcement Branch  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Headquarters

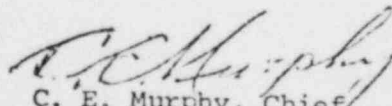
DUKE POWER COMPANY (OCONEE 1), LICENSE NO. DPR-38, DOCKET NO. 50-269 -  
EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTS OF REACTOR COOLANT FLOW IN EXCESS OF SAR  
VALUES

Tests at Oconee 1 have revealed that the reactor coolant flow exceeds design flow by 10.8 percent. This discrepancy has been carried as unresolved item No. 73-4/1 in RO Inspection Report No. 50-269/73-4. According to preliminary information received from the licensee, the only basis for an upper limit to the design flow is the end-of-life (EOL) spring constant of the fuel assembly holddown spring.

Because of uncertainties of measuring flows, the licensee stated that flow measurements would be refined at 40 percent and 75 percent power levels and agreed to submit a report at the conclusion of the test at the 75 percent power level. The licensee submitted the report to the Directorate of Licensing relating to the coolant flow measurements and the effects of the excess flow on August 23, 1973. A copy of this report is enclosed.

Preliminary evaluations of the Oconee Unit 2 HFT flow measurements indicate that the coolant flow may also be higher than the SAR value for Unit 2 even though the Unit 2 reactor coolant pumps are of different manufacture. Other Babcock and Wilcox facilities, thus may also have flows higher than design values.

Would you please contact Licensing and ascertain if the licensee's report is acceptable to them and advise us so that we will know whether further action is required.

  
C. E. Murphy, Chief  
Facilities Test and Startup  
Branch

RO:II:CEM

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: DR Central Files  
RO:HQ Files

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