

DUKE POWER COMPANY
POWER BUILDING
422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

February 19, 1976

TELEPHONE: AREA 704
373-4083

Mr. Norman C. Moseley, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Suite 818
230 Peachtree Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



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

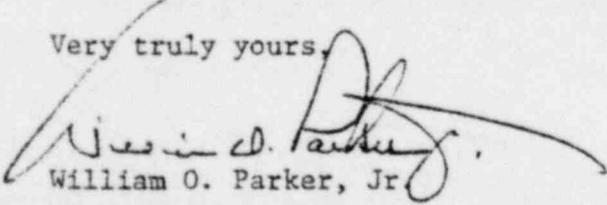
Dear Mr. Moseley:

Oconee Nuclear Station Appendix B Technical Specification 1.2 B requires that all water discharged from the plant site have a pH between 6.0 and 8.5. On February 12, 1976 a routine sample of the yard drains indicated a pH reading of 9.2. The following is a description of the events leading to this condition.

On February 11, 1976, from 0830 to 1130, the lower settling basin level was decreased in order to provide capacity for the storage of water resulting from the drainage of the Oconee Unit 1 steam generators. Commencing at 2000, this water was pumped to the lower settling basin. At 0830 on February 12, 1976, a sample of the yard drains indicated a pH of 9.2. Investigation revealed that the lower settling basin discharge valve was shut, the basin was receiving constant inlet flow and the water was overflowing the spillway. At 1150 the inlet valve to the upper basin was opened and the inlet valve to the lower basin was closed. Subsequent samples of the yard drains indicated a decreasing pH trend with the yard drains becoming in specifications at 0830, February 13, 1976. This incident had no observable effect upon the environment.

In order to prevent recurrence, the operating procedure for the waste water collection basins will be revised. The settling basins will be operated in such a manner that the weir valve will remain open and the pH of the basin controlled such that the resulting pH of water leaving the site will remain between 6.0 and 8.5. This will allow much greater reserve capacity in the settling basins to accommodate plant discharges which are out of normal. These changes will be instituted by March 18, 1976. In addition, in-line pH monitoring of the yard drains and the outlet of the lower settling basins with a remote readout capability in the water treatment room will be installed. This will provide much faster indication of an abnormal pH condition.

Very truly yours,


William O. Parker, Jr.

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