

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

Centella
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WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

October 3, 1977

TELEPHONE AREA 704
373-4083

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Suite 1217
230 Peachtree Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

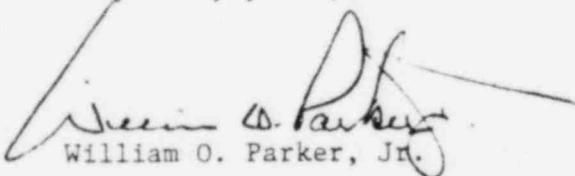
RE: RII:ADK
50-269/77-16
50-270/77-16
50-287/77-16

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

With regard to your letter of September 7, 1977, Duke Power Company does not consider information contained in IE Inspection Report 50-269, -270, -287/77-16 to be proprietary.

Please find attached our response to your request to describe actions taken to improve our operational capabilities in the area of reactor operator knowledge of radioactive effluent monitor interpretation relative to release limits. Also, a response describing additional action taken related to the "Notice of Deviation" is provided.

Very truly yours,


William O. Parker, Jr.

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Attachment

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ITEM

Provide a written response identifying those actions you will take to improve your operational capabilities in the area of reactor operator knowledge of radioactive effluent monitor interpretation relative to release limits.

RESPONSE

Operations personnel had been previously using correlation curves for interpretation of radiation monitor readings that were contained in a notebook maintained in the Control Room. That book contained out-of-date curves and was mistakenly used to answer the inspector's questions. The correct curves were available in Oconee Nuclear Station procedure PT/O/A/230/01, "Radiation Monitor Check". The outdated curves have been destroyed and the notebook has been removed from the Control Room.

In order to relate the stack iodine monitor indication to effluent limits, another curve has been prepared for the operator's use. This curve enables the operators to evaluate the daily percent of objective concentration leaving each stack.

Past experience has shown that the particulate monitor is sensitive to gaseous activity as well as to particulate activity. Thus, the direct correlation of particulate activity and monitor response can be misleading. Therefore, upon receipt of a particulate monitor alarm, the operator requests that a manual sample be taken and this sample is then used to quantify the particulate activity being released.

Training on the interpretation of radiation monitor information including the effluent iodine monitor is included in the requalification program for licensed operators. Additionally, this information will be reviewed by each operator by January 1, 1978.

ITEM

Based on the results of an NRC inspection conducted during the period August 2-5, 1977, it appears that one of your activities was not conducted in full conformance with your commitments to the Commission as indicated below:

"Contrary to a Duke Power Company letter to Region II, USNRC dated April 8, 1976, an alarm to be sounded if the RIA-53 pump fails to operate was intentionally made inoperable. This item was corrected immediately and no further corrective action is required".

RESPONSE

In addition to the action taken immediately to restore the alarm to operation, a modification has been designed to prevent a similar occurrence from happening in the future. The RIA-53 alarm is on the evaporator control panel which has a general alarm that indicates in the Unit 3 Control Room. The evaporator panel alarm was intentionally made inoperable because of spurious alarms being received in the Control Room for other items on the evaporator control panel. This also made the RIA-53 alarm inoperable. The modification will install a separate alarm for RIA-53 in the Unit 3 Control Room, correcting this condition. This modification is expected to be installed and operational by March 1, 1978.