

Central Files

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June 24, 1977

B. B. PARKER
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Mr. Ernst Volgenau, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

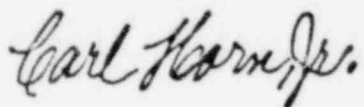
Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
License Numbers DPR-38, DPR-47 and DPR-55
Docket Numbers 50-269, 50-270 and 50-287

Dear Mr. Volgenau:

In response to your letter of June 13, 1977, the attached response to Item 1 of Appendix A to your letter of March 29, 1977 is provided.

Pursuant to the Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalties transmitted by your letter of June 13, 1977, please find attached a check in the amount of sixteen thousand dollars.

Very truly yours,



Carl Horn, Jr.

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Attachment

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO ITEM 1 OF APPENDIX A TO MR. E. VOLGENAU'S LETTER
OF MARCH 29, 1977

ITEM:

10CFR20.201 "Surveys", requires that each licensee make or cause to be made such surveys as may be necessary to comply with the regulatory requirements specified in 10CFR Part 20.

Contrary to the above, on January 17, 1977, no adequate measurement or other evaluation was made to account for radioactive effluent released from the Oconee oil collection basin to the Keowee River until about 8:50 a.m. on January 18, 1977.

RESPONSE:

In order to provide assurance that adequate sampling and monitoring programs are instituted to provide adequate surveys of effluents released to the environment via the turbine building and oil collection basin, administrative controls were implemented after the January incident and have been further revised in May, 1977. In the event a primary to secondary leak is identified a special monitoring program is established through procedures entitled "Control of Secondary Contamination" and "Environmental Surveillance Following a Primary to Secondary Leak". The purpose of this program is to identify, quantify and to control the release of activity to the environment.

The procedure "Control of Secondary Contamination" initially requires:

- 1) The health physics section is notified to begin a defined sampling program.
- 2) Water entering the turbine building sump is segregated to minimize the activity and volume.
- 3) The turbine building automatic sump pump breakers are opened and tagged so that releases are controlled.
- 4) As water accumulates in the sump, samples are taken and analyzed to assure batch release is acceptable.

The health physics procedure "Environmental Surveillance Following a Primary to Secondary Leak" defines the program of surveys required on the turbine building sump and oil collection basin. Sampling is initially required on the turbine building sump at a frequency which will permit batch releasing of the sump. Gamma isotopic and tritium analyses are performed on a priority basis on each sample. The oil collection basin is initially sampled every two hours and analyzed for tritium and gamma isotopes. Additional counting equipment is being procured to facilitate sample analysis.

The procedures make provision for adjusting the sampling frequencies to no greater than eight hours based upon the potential for release of activity. The Superintendents of Operations and the Superintendent of Technical Services must concur prior to returning the turbine building

sump pumps to automatic operation. Sampling is continued until it is verified that the potential for deleterious environmental releases no longer exists. Procedures also require that any activity released through this pathway is accounted for in the total annual station releases. Additionally, radiation monitors have been installed and are in continuous operation (except for maintenance periods) on the turbine building sumps. This will provide a warning if unexpected activity enters the sump.

A primary to secondary leak on Oconee Unit 3 in June, 1977 has demonstrated the effectiveness of these procedures. It is considered that corrective actions taken in May, 1977 further assure that the provisions of 10CFR20 and the Oconee Technical Specification 3.9 are met.