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May 6, 1976

Robert A. Purple, Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #1, DOR

OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION PERMANENT WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

In October 1973, Duke Power Company (DPC) informed the staff via an Unusual Event Report that the liquid and gas waste management systems at Oconee were processing larger volumes than were estimated in the FSAR. DPC indicated that they would design and install an Interim Waste Management Facility to assure they had sufficient capacity to accommodate Oconee Unit 3 which was not yet operating. They indicated that since it was to be an interim facility and the estimated date of completion was May 1974, the design may not be in accordance with all design criteria and code requirements which would be provided in a permanent facility. Their preliminary plans indicated a need for additional permanent waste management facilities and would require a separate building to house the facilities. This building was to be designed in accordance with criteria consistent with that for the existing waste management system. Conceptual studies and tests were to continue to improve the operation of the existing installed systems.

In a November 1973 meeting, we advised DPC that we would eventually have to find that the permanent systems are capable of meeting the objectives of Appendix I. DPC committed to providing us with sufficient information, data and design criteria to allow us to perform an independent review of the permanent modifications.

In a December 1973 letter, we acknowledged, in effect, that the plans to install an interim facility would be acceptable, but the changes should be reported in the First Year Operating Report and the next Semi-Annual Report. However, since DPC planned to have the interim system in operation before Unit 3 startup, we requested that they provide an interim report describing the interim facilities at least 60 days prior to Unit 3 fuel loading.

By letter dated May 2, 1974, DPC provided a report describing the Interim Waste Management Facilities. (Not formally reviewed by us) In the Semi Annual Report for the period ending December 31, 1974, DPC described the Interim Waste Management Systems and, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59 implied that no unreviewed safety questions were involved.

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In a February 20, 1975 letter, Environmental Projects requested details of the permanent facilities to update the Environmental Technical Specifications.

By letter dated June 23, 1975, DPC indicated that, with several design modifications, the interim facility would be acceptable for permanent use. They enclosed a safety analysis report describing the design objectives and criteria applied to the final design of the permanent facility.

In August 1975, ETSB indicated they thought it necessary to conduct a formal review of the planned permanent facility. We issued a TAR to ETSB to determine if we agreed that no unreviewed safety questions are involved.

In February 1976, ETSB advised that other branches should be included in the review.

In April 1976, we issued a second TAR to EB, EEB and PSB to evaluate the unreviewed safety question issue. Personnel from EB advised that certain areas pertinent to the new rad waste building had not been reviewed in the FSAR review and should now be looked at. The Geology-Seismology branch was specifically mentioned.

The present indications are that the permanent waste management facility design includes unreviewed safety questions that should be reviewed by the Commission before DPC is allowed to continue with their plans for modification.

Original signed by

Gary G. Zech, Project Manager  
Operating Reactors Branch #1  
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