

SAFETY EVALUATION
OCONEE UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

Discussion

Item 5 of Duke Power Company's letter requesting an amendment to Appendix A Technical Specifications proposed changes in the reporting requirements for anomalous measurements of radioactivity in environmental monitoring samples. The original request has been modified (and Duke Power has agreed to these modifications) to incorporate recommendations by the NRC staff.

The amended proposed changes would:

- 1) Delete the 30-day reporting requirement when a measured level of radioactivity in any environmental medium other than those associated with radioiodine exceeds 4 times the control station value;
- 2) Change the reporting requirement level from 10 times control to 50 times control for samples in the aquatic environment upstream of the bridge on Highway 183 over the Keowee River (within the prompt dilution area).

Evaluation

- 1) The proposed deletion of a reporting requirement associated with a measured level of radioactivity in an environmental sampling medium greater than 4 times the control value is in keeping with current NRC guidelines, Regulatory Guide 4.8. In many instances the variation in background levels could result in measurements that exceed 4 times the control value. Also, these levels are of negligible dose consequence; hence, the report of such levels does not provide any useful or meaningful data.

- 2) The proposed change of reporting requirement level from 10 times control to 50 times control for aquatic samples within the prompt dilution area of the Oconee discharge does not reduce the effectiveness of the monitoring program. These samples are taken coincident with radioactive effluent releases. Consequently the levels of radioactivity measured are representative of the effluent release level after a prompt dilution in the Keowee River and are expected to be greater than 10 times control station values. Increasing the report level from 10 to 50 times control values provides adequate assurance that anomalous levels of radioactivity in aquatic samples are reported and eliminates the reporting of levels that are expected due to sampling method (coincident with effluent release) and location (prompt dilution area).

Environmental Considerations

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or a significant increase in the total amounts of effluents nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4), that an environmental statement, negative declaration, or environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that:

(1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.