

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
230 PEACHTREE STREET, N. W. SUITE 818
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

August 7, 1975

Harold Thornburg, Chief, Field Support and Enforcement Branch, Office of
Inspection and Enforcement, Headquarters

OCCURRENCE AT OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION (H00856F2)

Regarding the subject matter contained in a letter from CONAM to the
State of Texas dated May 19, 1975, and a NRC memo dated July 11, 1975,
from G. W. Kerr to H. D. Thornburg, we have obtained clarifying
information from the licensee.

C. L. Thames, Health Physics Supervisor, stated that CONAM personnel
only from California were in the Oconee Nuclear Station. These CONAM
personnel were under contract with B&W to make the first portion of
inspections for B&W in the upper tube sheet area of steam generators.
This was eddy current type work and the CONAM personnel were not
radiographers.

Thames stated that the CONAM personnel entered the Oconee Nuclear Station
through the Health Physics group where they received training offered
such outside contract personnel. He stated that the CONAM personnel
would not have entered the plant through some other point, such as a
guard post, where they would have been asked to relinquish their own
personnel monitoring devices. He said that in passing through the
Health Physic group it is definitely not policy to ask any outside
contract personnel to set aside their own personnel monitoring devices,
however, all such personnel are required to wear Oconee personnel
monitoring devices for work of this type. The Region II principal
inspector confirmed this policy with the licensee representative while
on site. Thames stated that perhaps the CONAM personnel misunderstood
some statement made regarding the requirement to wear Oconee personnel
monitoring devices but there was certainly no intention to give the
impression that the CONAM personnel could not or should not wear their
own personnel monitoring devices. In fact, he stated that it has been
observed to be common practice for outside contract personnel such as
B&W to wear their own personnel monitoring equipment.

Thames stated that all key health physics personnel have been questioned
regarding this matter with the result that there is no indication that
Oconee personnel asked CONAM personnel to relinquish their own personnel
monitoring devices. Licensee management has emphasized to health physics
personnel the importance of avoiding any misunderstanding that Oconee



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Nuclear Station policy precludes the wearing by contract personnel of their own personnel monitoring devices.

Thames stated that corrected notices of personnel exposures were sent to CONAM for the last quarter of 1974. The corrections were for erroneous values furnished to Ocone by the contractor that processed their personnel monitoring devices. The exposures for the two individuals referred to in the CONAM letter of May 19th, did not require correction, and therefore remained unchanged from the values quoted in the letter. The corrected exposures reported to CONAM by Ocone, involved five other CONAM employees who worked at Ocone, none of whom had exposures in excess of NRC limits.

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