



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

Packet

Docket Nos. 50-269
50-270
and 50-287

JAN 15 1974

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. Austin C. Thies
Senior Vice President,
Production & Transmission
422 South Church Street
P. O. Box 2178
Charlotte, N. C. 28201

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed your letter of January 10, 1974 regarding the indication of a small loose object in the Oconee Unit 2 reactor vessel lower head. It is our understanding at this time that it has not been determined whether the object was generated within the primary system (a loose part) or whether it was accidentally left in the primary system prior to closure. Your tests and inspections to date have indicated that all systems connected to the primary system are operating properly thus reducing the probability that the object was generated in the primary system, however, failure to detect the object during earlier operation supports the argument that it may be a loose part.

Since the Unit 2 startup program is still in progress and significant operation below 80% of rated power is required to complete the program, we find that continued operation is acceptable under the conditions for investigation and monitoring which you outline in your January 10, 1974 letter. The object of the investigation and monitoring is to determine whether or not the loose object is indicative of a potentially degraded condition or can result in a future degraded condition. Therefore, you are requested to further evaluate this situation no later than at the completion of your 75% power testing program, which we anticipate to be some time in late February 1974, and report your safety evaluation to us prior to proceeding above 80% power. Please provide us with significant new information and data as it is developed.

Sincerely,

V. A. Moore

V. A. Moore, Assistant Director
for Light Water Reactors 2
Directorate of Licensing

cc: See Next Page

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Duke Power Company

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cc: William L. Porter
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 2178
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, N. C. 28201