

UNION  
OF  
CONCERNED  
SCIENTISTS

1208 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138  
(617) 547-5552

50-270

December 11, 1975

Dr. Donald Knuth  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Don:

Duke Power Company, according to recent reports of the Associated Press, discovered and corrected a recurring spill of radioactive water from Oconee-2 into the Heartwell reservoir near Clemson, South Carolina.

You were quoted by the Associated Press stating that certain valves were leaking in the primary coolant system into a line that discharged into the turbine room floor drain, and that the line had been improperly installed at the plant. We would appreciate it if you could tell us what specific components at the plant were involved and explain why the installation was improper. In addition, we would like to know what regulatory staff review was carried out relative to the equipment involved, including both licensing review and review by the inspection and enforcement division subsequent to operation. Did the regulatory staff approve the operation of the plant knowing that this equipment was improperly installed, or was this condition not known when the plant was licensed?

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

*Daniel F. Ford*

Daniel F. Ford  
Executive Director

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