



North Carolina Department of Natural Resources & Community Development

James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor

Howard N. Lee, Secretary

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental Operations Section

October 19, 1978

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52 488/490

Mr. Charles A. Barth
Counsel for NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Barth:

Your letter of October 11, 1978 to Mr. William A. Raney, Jr. concerning condenser cooling has been referred to me for response.

You asked the view of the State of North Carolina "as to what type of condenser cooling would be acceptable for a nuclear facility of the size of Perkins to be constructed in the future and to come on line after July 1, 1983."

In view of the remand of the EPA regulations concerning thermal discharges by the U. S. Court of Appeals, North Carolina has no effluent limits for thermal discharges from steam electric plants. For this reason the effluent limits for thermal discharges from such plants would be based on the maintenance of water quality standards for the receiving waters. Temperature standards for North Carolina waters are found in 15 N.C. Administrative Code 2B .0211(c) (3) (J), 2B .0211(d) (3) (H), and 2B .0211(e) (3) (F).

Other than the Atlantic Ocean, I know of no body of water in North Carolina that could be used for once through cooling of a 4000 MWe facility without causing a violation of water quality standards for temperature. Therefore, it is my opinion that some technology other than once through cooling would be required in order for such a facility to receive a North Carolina water quality permit.

Very truly yours,
Original Signed by
L. P. BENTON, JR.
L. P. Benton, Chief
Environmental Operations Section

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Mr. Charles A. Barth
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