

DUKE POWER COMPANY

STEAM PRODUCTION DEPT.

GENERAL OFFICES

422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET
CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

TELEPHONE: AREA 704
373-4011

P. O. BOX 33189

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August 17, 1982

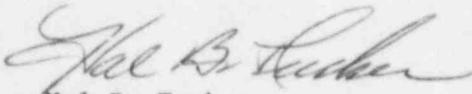
Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
IE Inspection Report
50-269/82-21
50-270/82-21
50-287/82-21

Dear Sir:

As indicated in Mr. R. C. Lewis's letter of July 9, 1982 which transmitted the subject inspection report, Duke Power Company agreed to investigate item 7a., and report the results. Please find attached the results of our investigation which conclude that the subject excessive dead time will cause insignificant errors in halogen activities reported.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker
Vice President
Nuclear Production Department

JFN:ls
Attachment

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Item

- 7a. The inspector noted that deadtime values for gamma spectroscopy analyses of waste gas silver zeolite cartridges were as high as 25 percent for several of the sample analyses conducted during the first half of 1982. These analyses were approved for effluent accountability although the deadtime exceeded the 10 percent control limit. The inspector informed licensee representatives that high resolution gamma-ray spectrometers are very susceptible to pulse pile-up losses which would result in underestimating the quantity of radioiodine released. Licensee representatives indicated that they would purge the silver zeolite cartridges to remove the noble gas contributing to the excessive deadtime. The inspector stated that this item will be considered unresolved pending further investigation by the licensee on the effect of excessive deadtime on the analyses of silver zeolite cartridges for radioiodine and the effect of that concern on effluent accountability. Licensee representatives indicated they would conduct an investigation and report results to the regional office by letter within sixty days from the date of the exit interview (269/82-21-02, 270/82-21-02, 287/82-21-02).

Response

An investigation into this matter was conducted as agreed. The investigation shows that excessive dead time will, in fact, cause errors in halogen activities reported. However, the total error in halogen curies released is insignificant and requires no further action.