



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 2, 1990

Docket No.: 50-416

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lester L. Kintner, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: LeMoine J. Cunningham, Chief
Radiation Protection Branch
Division of Radiation Protection
and Emergency Preparedness
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - TURBINE
LUBRICATING OIL DISPOSAL (TAC NO. 73379)

We have reviewed the summary of the May 24, 1989 conference call between the NRC and System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI - the licensee) which is documented in a June 2, 1989 note from J. Greeves to R. Bernero, both of NMSS. The licensee has stated that during turbine trips from May 1985 through January 1988 the turbine released lubricating oil which overflowed into the floor sump. During that time the floor sump contained contaminated water. Upon correcting the problem which caused the oil release, the licensee cleaned and disposed of the oil. That part of the oil and associated trash considered to be contaminated were sent for disposal as low-level waste. Approximately 14,050 gallons of treated oil were considered to be nonradioactive. This oil had been surveyed and was determined to have detectable radioactivity below a lower limit of detection (LLD) of 5×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$, gamma. The oil was then incinerated at a sister fossil fuel plant from June 1988 through January 1989 in two to three separate burns.

We have reviewed the Grand Gulf Technical Specification 3/4.11, Radiological Effluents, and discussed the licensee's actions with Mr. Eddie Fuente of the Mississippi State Department of Health. Mississippi is an Agreement State. Mr. Fuente appeared to have no problems with the oil incineration based on a briefing that he received from SERI, albeit after the fact.

Tom Essig, Chief, Radiation Measurement and Health Effects Section, NRR, and Tom Decker, Chief, Radiological Effluents and Chemistry Section, RII, also discussed the licensee's actions. Although other nuclear power plant licensees have obtained permission from the NRC under 10 CFR Part 20.302 for the onsite incineration of waste oil based on an effluent release LLD at the cited level, it appears that the licensee did not obtain prior approval for this action nor was the oil incinerated onsite. Based on a discussion between Mr. Essig and Mr. Decker on December 8, 1989, Mr. Decker indicated that Region II will followup on the licensee's actions during a future routine inspection.

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This completes our review under SAC No. 73379. This review was prepared by L. Brown, x23152.

Original signed by LeMoine J. Cunningham

LeMoine J. Cunningham, Chief
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