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DUKE POWER

December 11, 1995

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370
Proposed Technical Specification (TS) Amendment
TS 3/4.8.2 - D.C. Sources
Commitment Status Update

Dear Sir:

In letter dated 12/05/95, McGuire committed to inform the NRC by December 13, 1995 on the status of the dialog between McGuire and the vendor regarding recovered battery capacity immediately following recharging. The following is the status of the dialog.

The AT&T Product Manual is limited on this subject and simply states, "recharge cells as soon as possible after discharge" and that, "normal float charge will return a discharged battery to full charge in approximately one day." It is expected that recharging at float potential following a deep discharge will leave cell electrolyte stratified to the extent that acceptable Specific Gravity Tech. Spec. values can not be achieved within the relatively short LCO window of 72 hours. With this limitation, it is necessary to recharge at 'equalize' or 'boost' potential in order to agitate each cell, and therefore eliminate electrolyte stratification.

Recent discussions with Mr. Fred Laman, AT&T Project Engineer responsible for Lineage 2000 Round Cell Batteries, indicate that testing is being performed to determine the optimum method for recharging. Until this testing is complete and new recommendations provided, the AT&T position is as follows:

AT&T indicates that if a McGuire Round Cell battery bank is recharged (following a deep discharge battery Performance Test) using constant potential at the present rate of 2.50 volts per cell, approximately 95% capacity (battery capacity prior to discharge) would be available when the battery is returned to bus at the end of a 72 hour LCO. The 5% deficit is due to gas entrapment resulting from the recharge and

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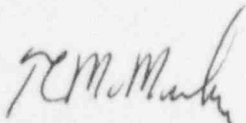
should be returned to 100% within approximately 1 week on float charge.

It can be concluded, that even with battery capacity not fully recovered following a discharge/recharge, the 95% immediately available is conservatively more than the 80% required by existing McGuire Technical Specifications.

In order to improve the dialog with AT&T and other user's, McGuire has recently helped form the "AT&T Round Cell Nuclear Utility User's Council" which met on November 30 in Dallas, Texas. The group will work with AT&T to help resolve the recharging issue and other concerns. McGuire will follow progress of on-going testing and work with the User's Council to better understand the discharge/recharge performance characteristics of the Round Cell.

Should you have questions, please call P.T. Vu at (704) 875-4302.

Very truly yours,



T. C. McMeekin

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McGuire TS Change Subject File

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