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June 3, 1985

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. K. C. Dass
Regional Director
State Water Control Board
Piedmont Regional Office
2201 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23230

Surry Power Station - Oil Spill

Dear Mr. Dass:

This is to confirm the recent oil spill at our Surry Power Station that was previously reported by telephone to the Staff of the State Water Control Board on the evening of May 29, 1985.

On the evening of May 29, station personnel discovered a light sheen of oil coming from a storm drain issuing into the station discharge canal. Investigations into possible sources ensued and the remainder of the discharge canal area was checked to determine whether oil had passed the permanent containment boom located in the canal. Meanwhile the release had stopped. Due to the light nature and small size of the sheen, it was dispersed within the canal before cleanup could be accomplished. During followup investigation that evening, oil was again observed coming from the same storm drain, forming a light sheen approximately five by twenty feet. A light oil sheen was noticed in a station yard drain, which was apparently the input point. Due to several factors (approaching darkness, the fact that the sheen did not appear to be moving from the upper end of the canal, the permanent containment boom located at the lower canal, and the safety hazards of working on slippery surfaces at night), cleanup procedures were initiated the following morning. At that time, no oil was found in the canal, as it had apparently been dispersed, due to its light nature and wave action.

The spill source was originally reported as an oil recovery system leak. However, further investigation determined that this was not the case, but that the source was the storm drain at the upper end of the canal. Surface runoff, related to recent rains, was the cause.

On the morning of May 30, 1985, personnel from the United States Coast Guard's Norfolk facility visited the site, investigated the event and concurred with our conclusion regarding the source of the sheen.

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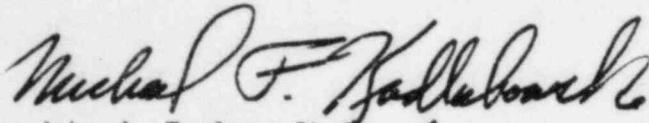
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Observations of the discharge canal and the local James River area indicated that none of the sheen reached the James River. No apparent adverse environmental impact to state waters, wildlife or public property occurred. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please let us know.

Very truly yours,


John A. Taylor, Ph.D.
Manager
Water Quality *for*

cc: U. S. Coast Guard
Dr. J. Nelson Grace, USNRC Docket No. 50-280/50-281
✓ Mr. Harold R. Denton, USNRC Docket No. 50-280/50-281
Mr. Donald J. Burke, USNRC Docket No. 50-280/50-281

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