

DUKE POWER COMPANY
P.O. BOX 33189
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28242

WILLIAM A. HALLER
MANAGER
NUCLEAR TECHNICAL SERVICES
(704) 373-8508



March 7, 1988

South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201

ATTENTION: NPDES Administrative Section

SUBJECT: Catawba Nuclear Station
Conventional Wastewater Treatment System (WC)
Noncompliance Notification
File: CN-702.26

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Part II.B.2 of the Catawba Nuclear Station NPDES permit (SC0004278) as a follow-up to the telephone notification to the Catawba District Office, Fort Lawn, S.C., this is to notify you of a noncompliance incident at the Catawba Nuclear Station. Information related to the incident is as follows:

Discharge

The discharge was the Conventional Wastewater Treatment System (WC, discharge 002) into Lake Wylie.

Cause of Noncompliance

The discharge contained a hydrazine concentration of 8.0 mg/l. Based on the flowrate and duration, the calculated quantity of hydrazine discharged was approximately 68 pounds.

Date and Time

The WC system discharge began at 2140 hours on February 29, 1988. The discharge was terminated at 0920 hours on March 1, 1988 when hydrazine was discovered within the system.

Duration

The duration was approximately 11 hours and 40 minutes.

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Prevention

Once hydrazine was discovered in the B-pond of the WC System, the discharge was terminated. Administrative precautions were immediately taken to alleviate the current event. Also, internal investigations have been initiated to determine and correct deficiencies that led to this release. When the investigations are complete, additional administrative controls will be implemented to prevent future occurrences.

Summary

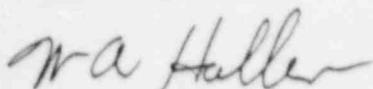
The WC system consists of (1) a 300,000 gallon Initial Holdup Pond, (2) two (2) five-million gallon Settling Ponds, and (3) a 1.5 million gallon Final Holdup Pond. The A-pond and the Final Holdup Pond were at full capacity and out-of-specification for release. They were being recirculated for treatment. DHEC had given approval to discharge hydrazine up to a concentration of 0.43 mg/l. The B-pond was sampled and analyzed on February 29, 1988 and determined to be within specification for release for the normal NPDES parameters as well as hydrazine. In order to prevent all ponds from filling and thereby leaving no capacity to receive wastewater from the station, it was decided to discharge the B-pond as it received wastewater from the station. In the meantime, a vessel thought to contain only condensate was drained to the WC system. The vessel, however, contained hydrazine.

On March 1, 1988 a composite sample of B-pond was analyzed for hydrazine. The hydrazine concentration was 8.0 mg/l. Immediately, a discharge sample was collected and the discharge was stopped at 0920 hrs. The results of the analysis of the discharge sample was also 8.0 mg/l. Between 1000 and 1115, samples were taken in Lake Wylie approximately 2 feet from the WC discharge and downstream at the radiological sampling point. The results of the analyses were 0.108 mg/l and no detectable hydrazine, respectively.

In the discharge cove, approximately six small bream and several dozen threadfin shad were observed dead. A more complete investigation by Duke Power Biologists revealed that threadfin shad were observed dead in other areas of the lake unaffected by the discharge. This would indicate that their deaths were due to natural conditions such as low water temperatures.

All appropriate State, County, and Federal officials were notified of this event. Should you desire additional information or have any questions please contact R.T. Simril [(704) 373-2310] or M.C. Griggs [(704) 373-7080].

Sincerely,



W.A. Haller, Manager
Nuclear Technical Services

WTG/26/rhm

xc: A.L. Williams - Fort Lawn, South Carolina
Document Control Desk, NRC