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SUBJECT: Advises of change to commitment noted in util 800605 ltr re incident that resulted in unplanned reactivity insertion of greater than 0.5% K/K. Procedure revised to allow removal of corrosion & fission products from RCS during outage.

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February 3, 1988

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station  
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287  
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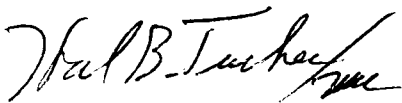
Dear Sir:

By a letter dated June 5, 1980, Duke Power had submitted a Report that described an incident that resulted in an unplanned reactivity insertion of greater than 0.5%ΔK/K while Oconee Unit 2 was in a Cold Shutdown condition. Within the report, Duke had committed to implement administrative controls to preclude the use of demineralizers while the RCS is in a drained down condition. The purpose of this letter is to advise the NRC of a change to this commitment.

One of the Corrective Actions committed to by Duke after the 1980 incident was to revise the procedure for bringing a unit to cold shutdown by deleting the operating steps to align the purification and/or deborating demineralizers to the Low Pressure Injection (LPI)/Decay Heat Removal (DHR) System. What is being proposed now is to include these steps back into the procedure to allow for the alignment of a purification and/or deborating demineralizer to the LPI/DHR System while the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) is in a drained down condition. Procedures are already in place to assure that the demineralizers have been properly saturated prior to being placed into service. Duke intends to implement this revision to the procedures for the upcoming Unit 2 refueling outage shutdown, which is scheduled to begin February 4, 1988. The procedures for Units 1 and 3 will, also, be similarly revised.

The reason for this change is to allow for the removal of corrosion and fission products from the RCS in order to minimize exposure to personnel during an outage. As an ALARA measure, a crude burst will be chemically induced in the RCS during cooldown. By utilizing these demineralizers, the high activity levels should be significantly reduced, which will reduce the dose that would be received by personnel during the outage.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
February 3, 1988  
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