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 50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co.

DOCKET #
 05000269
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 05000287

AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 PARKER,W.O. Duke Power Co.
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 DENTON,H.R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director

SUBJECT: RO:Fifth holddown spring ID30 in B&W fuel assembly was discovered to be broken subsequent to 801209 rept.Caused by heat from inconel matl.

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December 15, 1980

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287

Dear Mr. Denton:

My letter of December 9, 1980 concerning the occurrence of broken holddown springs in Babcock and Wilcox fuel assemblies inadvertently stated that only four broken springs had been observed at Oconee. The actual number of assemblies having broken springs at Oconee is five. The fifth assembly, 1D30, was suspect when Licensee Event Report RO-269/80-15, which concerns the Oconee broken spring, was issued. However, it was not conclusively identified as having a broken spring until a subsequent re-examination was made of suspect assemblies in the Oconee spent fuel pools.

The spring for this assembly was broken only once. A documentation review has confirmed that it was produced from the same heat of inconel material as three of the other four previously reported broken springs. My letter of December 9 discussed the examination of this material and the cause for its failure.

All other information provided by my December 9 letter remains valid and the conclusions of the safety analysis are unaffected.

By copy of this letter to Mr. James P. O'Reilly, this information is provided as a supplement to LER RO-269/80-15.

Very truly yours,

William O. Parker, Jr.

FTP:vr

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly

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