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 50-270 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Duke Power Co. 05000270
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AUTH. NAME AUTHDR AFFILIATION
 TUCKER, H. B. Duke Power Co.
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Submits addl info re rate of fouling of HXs, per util 870406
 proposed amend to Tech Specs. Addl fouling not expected to
 restrict operation until refueling outages in Aug 1987 & Dec
 1987/Jan 1988, due to low turbidity of Lake Keowee.

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DUKE POWER COMPANY

P.O. BOX 33189
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28242

HAL B. TUCKER
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

TELEPHONE
(704) 373-4531

April 7, 1987

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

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

Dear Sir:

By letter dated April 6, 1987, Duke proposed a Technical Specification Amendment to establish interim maximum allowable power levels for Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2 to assure that the Low Pressure Injection (LPI) System and the Reactor Building Cooling Units (RBCU) System are capable of performing their intended safety functions. Additional information regarding the rate of fouling of these heat exchangers was requested by the NRC Staff. In response, the subsequent paragraphs provides the requested information.

The first indication of heat exchanger fouling at Oconee was in 1985, when station personnel noted that the Unit 1A LPI cooler was taking longer to cool down the Reactor Coolant System than it had previously. Prior to this time the coolers associated with the RBCU and LPI Systems had not exhibited any significant performance degradation; also, these heat exchangers have never been cleaned. This by itself indicates that the fouling rate of the LPI and RBCU coolers is very slow.

The source of cooling water for both the LPI and RBCU coolers is Lake Keowee. The turbidity of Lake Keowee is very low. Depending on the time of the year the turbidity of the lake water ranges from less than 1 NTU to 4 NTUs. For comparison, the State of South Carolina drinking water standard limits turbidity to a monthly average of 1 NTU on the drinking water side. Turbidity is a measure of suspended solids and is further indication that the fouling rate of the LPI and RBCU coolers is very slow.

Based on past experience and the fact that Lake Keowee is a very clean lake, Duke does not expect additional fouling to further restrict Unit 1 and 2 operation until their projected refueling outages in August 1987 and late December 1987 or January 1988, respectively.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

PFG/18/sbn

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

April 7, 1987

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xc: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. J. C. Bryant
NRC Resident Inspector
Oconee Nuclear Station

Ms. Helen Pastis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555