

AUG 2 1976

Docket Nos. 50-269

~~50-270~~

and ~~50-287~~

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. William O. Parker, Jr.
Vice President - Steam Production
422 South Church Street
P. O. Box 2178
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Gentlemen:

We are currently reviewing your proposed Appendix B Technical Specification change to the pH discharge limit for the Oconee Nuclear Station, as submitted in your letter of May 13, 1976, and find that we cannot complete our evaluation without additional information for an environmental appraisal.

The Oconee technical specifications, as they are now written, stipulate that "all water discharged from the wastewater collection basin shall have a pH between 6.0 and 8.5". This specification was based on our FES conclusion that the pH in the holding pond should be within the range of 6.0 and 8.5 (FES, page 95). You have requested that the upper limit on the pH be raised to 9.0, but you have not given a reason for the change, other than that it would be consistent with chemical effluents as stated in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972, nor have you described the environmental impact of the change. Under the second memorandum of understanding between NRC and EPA, the NRC is obliged to review its technical specification water effluent limits with the objective of obtaining consistency with the NPDES Permit (Federal Water Pollution Control Act). This can only be done, however, after a NEPA review of the impact has been done, if the change warrants such a review. The FES for Oconee describes the pH of the Keowee River to be approximately 6.6 and the annual reports indicate the pH to be found in the range of 5.8 to 7.0, indicating the river is mildly acidic. The impact to the aquatic biota of water released at pH values higher than what naturally occurs in the river was not evaluated in the FES. The pH limits are already somewhat outside this range, thus an increase in the limit requires a NEPA review. We therefore request that you

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provide us with the additional information identified in the enclosure.

Sincerely,

T. Wambach

for A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
Additional Information Required

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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cc: Mr. William L. Porter
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 2178
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Mr. Troy B. Conner
Conner & Knotts
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20006

Oconee Public Library
201 South Spring Street
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

INFORMATION REQUESTED - OCONEE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE

1. Identify all important aquatic species populations which are intolerant to high pH levels and may be found in the area of the discharge; indicate data sources.
2. Describe the distribution and abundance of species identified in 1 above, and the sampling methodologies for determining distribution and abundance. Indicate confidence limits, and reference methods of estimating distribution and abundance.
3. Estimate the additional impacts to the species populations identified in 1 and 2 above. Describe methods used for estimating the impacts.
4. If data are not available for 1 and 2 above, propose a sampling program to collect the information and include this program in Section 4 of the Technical Specifications.
5. If the impact determined in 3 above is significant, propose a permanent environmental surveillance condition for inclusion in Section 3 of the Technical Specifications.