

FROM: Sen. Strom Thurmond		ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO. 03368	
TO: ME (referred to SAC 2/3/78)		COMPL DEADLINE		3/4/78		DATE OF DOCUMENT	
		ACKNOWLEDGMENT				1/3/78	
		INTERIM REPLY					
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		FINAL REPLY		K/D		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:	
		FILE LOCATION		2/8/78		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER: Defted	
Encl 1lr from Everett & Grace Lattale concerning monitoring for radiation levels, expressing specific concerns re Ocean and Millstone		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS					
		100-3283 Return enclosure w/reply SECY 78-0218					
CLASSIFIED DATA							
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.		CLASSIFICATION					
NUMBER OF PAGES		CATEGORY					
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.		<input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD					
ASSIGNED TO:		DATE		INFORMATION ROUTING		LEGAL REVIEW	
100-3283		2/3/78				<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:	
100-3283		2/3/78				<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR EXT. _____	
100-3283		2/3/78				COMMENTS, NOTIFY: _____ EXT. _____	
100-3283		2/3/78				JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

NRC FORM 232
(11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

DO NOT REMOVE THIS COPY

No. 78-0318 Logging Date 2/22/78

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: ☐ Commissioner _____ Date _____
☒ Exec. Dir./Oper. _____
☐ Cong. Liaison _____
☐ Public Affairs _____
☐ _____

☐ Gen. Counsel
☐ Solicitor
☐ Secretary

Incoming: Senator Strom Thurmond
 From: Constituent referral of Everett & Grace
Laitala (Referred to NRC by DOE)
 To: OCA via DOE Date DOE transferal
dated 2/9/78

Subject: Expressing concern over nuclear power esp.
Duke's Occonee Plant. (Erroneously charges EPA with
effluent release responsibilities)

☒ Prepare reply for signature of:
☐ Chairman
☐ Commissioner _____
☒ EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
☐ Signature block omitted
☐ _____
☐ Return original of incoming with response

☐ For direct reply*
☐ For appropriate action
☐ For information
☐ For recommendation

Suspense: March 8

Rec'd Off. EDO
 Date 12/23/78
 Time 12:30

Remarks: Cpys to: OCA to Acknowledge.

 For the Commission: Combs

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 3, 1978

RE: Enclosed Correspondence

TO: Dr. John M. Deutch, Director Designate
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
217 Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Sir:

The attached is respectfully referred to you for such consideration as it may warrant and for a report thereon in duplicate, if possible.

Your assistance in enabling me provide a prompt response to my constituent is greatly appreciated. PLEASE RETURN THIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH YOUR REPLY.

Very truly,

Strom Thurmond

Strom Thurmond
United States Senator

ST/ xi

112 Keowee Trail
Clemson, S.C. 29631

December 15, 1977

DEC 19 1977

President Jimmy Carter
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Carter: Re: William Rowe of EPA

I understand that William Rowe heads up the radiation testing program. He should be asked to resign and put in someone more competent to do the job of oversight in this extremely sensitive area. Personally we think this responsibility should be delegated to an independent research group with absolutely no connection to any energy interests. I have read that money was granted to Mr. Rowe for the expansion of the testing program, but just about all of it ended up in pay raises for the employees in his department.

There seems to be a growing lack of trust by the users of electricity generated by nuclear power, in the men responsible for testing for radiation. They are too closely tied to the utility companies. Particularly in those areas where waste is being stored to capacity, or where so-called "minor accidents" are occurring. Perhaps the men heading up these testing programs are such dedicated proponents of nuclear power that they are not too trustworthy in releasing the facts.

We live near the Oconee Nuclear Power Station, owned by Duke Power Company, which seems to have a good bit of difficulty in running their plant. Last spring at least 50,000 gallons of radio active water, drained from a reactor shut down for repairs, escaped into the lake which provides water to Clemson University. (12,000 students) One or two of their reactors are always shut down for repairs, and the cost of our power goes up constantly. They are now asking for an increase in rates, which I suspect is due to the lack of efficiency in operating their nuclear power plant. We hope permission is never granted them to build another one.

Just this week, at Waterford, Conn., a plant owned by Northeast Power, had two explosions with an escape of radio active gas. Of course the press release called it a "minor accident." I hope the residents in that area have complete confidence in the report that will be made by EPA, but I rather doubt it.

Sincerely,

Everett and Grace Laitala

Everett and Grace Laitala

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond ✓
Senator Fritz Hollings

01042

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13 1978 JAN 11 AM 10:02



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

FEB 9 1978

Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

Reference is made to your recent referral regarding an inquiry from your constituents, Everett and Grace Laitala.

We have reviewed your referral and believe it relates to a program for which the following agency has responsibility:

Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

We are, by copy of this letter, referring your inquiry to that agency for appropriate action. Further inquiries of this nature should be sent to the above address.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Frederick P. Hitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "H".

Frederick P. Hitz
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Incoming correspondence

cc: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Distribution

L. V. Gossick, EDO
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IE Reading File
 EDO Reading File

MAR 7 1978

50-269

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
 United States Senate
 Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

I am pleased to provide the information requested in your letter of February 2, 1978, regarding the mission of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "accidents", and the Oconee Nuclear Station. Responses to each of these matters are enclosed. Mr. and Mrs. Laitala appear to be concerned about the environmental impact of nuclear power reactors, particularly the Oconee Nuclear Station located near Clemson, South Carolina. Therefore, the responses are directed toward these subjects.

I trust the enclosed information is responsive to your request. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

William J. Dircks
 Assistant Executive Director
 for Operations

Enclosures: (See next page)

OCA

2/ /78

SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCES

OFFICE	X00S	IE-ELD	X00S	DD:IE	IE	EDO
SURNAME	RCPaulus		ELJordan	JGDavis	EVoldenau	
DATE	2/23/78	2/23/78	2/23/78	2/23/78	3/1/78	

Enclosures:

1. Mission of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission w/encl, "1976 NRC Annual Report"
2. Nuclear Accidents w/encls,
 - (a) Appendix 5 to Regulatory Guides 4.2 and
 - (b) Evaluation of environmental impact for postulated accidents FES - Oconee
3. Oconee Nuclear Station w/encl
 - Ltr dtd 3/22/77 to Sen. Hollings
 - Ltr dtd 3/29/77 to Duke Power Co.
 - Ltr dtd 3/31/77 to Duke Power Co. with IE Investigation Report
 - Ltr dtd 4/20/77 to NRC from Duke Power Co. with attachments A through F
 - Ltr dtd 6/13/77 to Duke Power Co.

Mission of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

The NRC is charged by law with four areas of responsibility with respect to civilian nuclear activities:

- . Protection of the public health and safety
- . Protection of environmental quality
- . Safeguarding nuclear material and facilities
- . Assuring conformity with antitrust laws.

To accomplish its mission, NRC maintains a broad program of standards-setting and rulemaking, technical reviews and studies, licensing actions, inspection and enforcement, evaluation of operating experience, and regulatory research. A description of NRC programs is contained in the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Annual Report for 1976, a copy of which is enclosed.

Chapter 4 of the 1976 Annual Report addresses the preservation of environmental quality and describes NRC programs and requirements placed on licensees in this area. This section of the report also discusses the interface between NRC and EPA.

Nuclear Accidents

In its evaluation of the environmental impact of major nuclear facilities pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the NRC analyzes postulated accidents from operation of the facilities. In the consideration of the environmental risks associated with the postulated accidents at nuclear power reactors, the probabilities of the accidents occurrence and their consequences must both be taken into account. Since it is not practicable to consider all possible accidents, the spectrum of accidents is divided into classes ranging from trivial to very serious. For nuclear power reactors, the classes of accidents are as follows:

1. Trivial accidents
2. Small releases of radioactive materials outside containment
3. Radioactive waste system failures
4. Radioactive fission products to the primary coolant of a boiling water reactor
5. Radioactive fission products to the primary and secondary systems of a pressurized water reactor
6. Accidents occurring during refueling operations
7. Accidents occurring during handling of spent reactor fuel
8. Loss of coolant accidents, steamline breaks and accidents with similar consequences
9. Accidents involving sequences of postulated successive failures more severe than Class 8

The postulated accidents are discussed in more detail in Appendix 5 to Regulatory Guide 4.3, "Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Stations". A copy of Appendix 5 is enclosed.

The Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2 and 3 was issued by the Atomic Energy Commission (predecessor to NRC) in March 1972. This report contained an evaluation of the environmental impact from postulated accidents involving the Oconee plant. A copy of this portion of the Final Environmental Statement is enclosed.

Oconee Nuclear Station

The Oconee Unit No. 1 reactor experienced a leak of radioactively contaminated water in January 1977, resulting in a release to the Keowee River. The NRC concluded that this release was insignificant from the public health perspective. Nevertheless, there was substantial public concern about the release and its possible effects, particularly from members of the public residing in the area of Clemson, South Carolina. This public concern was due to the fact that the potable water supply for the town of Clemson is drawn from the Keowee River downstream from the Oconee site. Because of the public concern, news releases were made by NRC and Duke Power Company. In addition, Duke Power Company officials met with about 200 citizens to discuss the radioactive release. Representatives of NRC, Environmental Protection Agency and the State of South Carolina attended the meeting.

On March 22, 1977, the NRC responded to an inquiry from Senator Hollings regarding the release of radioactive water from the Oconee Nuclear Station. Copies of that correspondence and follow-up documents provided to Senator Hollings are enclosed.

Enclosure 3

EDO Central Files



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 2 1978

The Honorable Butler Derrick
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Derrick:

I am pleased to respond to your January 30, 1978 letter addressed to the Director of our Region II office in Atlanta, Georgia.

During late December 1977 and early January of 1978 a microearthquake swarm (a series of very small earthquakes) occurred in the vicinity of the Oconee Nuclear Plant - Lake Jocassee. It is correct that the largest event of that swarm was of magnitude about 2.2 Richter.

Duke Power Company, the licensee, informed the NRC by telephone of the increased seismic activity in this area on January 3, 1978. This was in accordance with the procedure which had been agreed to by the licensee by letter dated July 8, 1977 after the microearthquake recorder network was installed on November 1, 1976. The network was installed and is operated by the University of South Carolina as part of a study sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Duke Power Company provides a portion of the funding for the system in return for certain data and reports submitted by the University to Duke Power Company. At the end of two years the need for the network is to be re-evaluated.

At the beginning of this recent activity period, Duke Power Company agreed to communicate to the NRC by telephone on almost a daily basis, significant information on the microearthquake activity. As a precautionary measure, Duke Power Company was requested to be especially careful to assure that all seismographs continued to be in working order.

Since the events in January of this year the microearthquake activity in the area has decreased very significantly, both in magnitude and frequency. The NRC staff is considering termination of the telephone reports, placing the reporting back on the routine quarterly schedule. Duke Power Company will be submitting a report on this recent activity early in March 1978. Upon receipt of the report, the NRC staff will begin an evaluation of the data and the report. A completed evaluation is expected by mid-April 1978.

hkr

The information from the recent events and any subsequent data will be considered in final evaluation of the two-year microearthquake study.

As a result of the information we have at the present time, we are of the opinion that there is no immediate concern for safety. With regard to future earthquakes, we cannot make specific predictions except that it is probable that similar microearthquake activity will occur from time to time. Such activity has occurred elsewhere in the southeastern U.S. It is also possible that larger seismic events may occur, but as you are probably aware, the Oconee Nuclear Plant and Jocassee Dam are designed and built with significant margins of safety.

As a measure of the significance of these recent events with respect to plant safety it is possible to use a comparison based on ground acceleration values. Some of the strong motion seismographs at the site are set to actuate at 0.01g. The nuclear plant was designed for a 0.10g ground acceleration. As a result of the recent activity none of these instruments were activated, thereby indicating the relatively low magnitude of that activity.

We hope that this information will serve your needs. If you desire further information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Distribution

L. V. Gossick, EDO
W. J. Dircks, EDO
E. Volgenau, DIE
J. G. Davis, DD:IE
N. C. Moseley, RCI:IE
R. E. Shewmaker, RCI:IE
E. L. Jordan, X00S:IE
OCA(3)
SECY(3)
G. Ertter (EDO-3323)
L. N. Underwood, X00S:IE
(H6-1631-H1)
IE Files (3)
EDO Central Files
IE Reading Files
EDO Reading Files
J. P. O'Reilly, Region II:IE

Sincerely,

19

Ernst Volgenau
Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

*By telephone
from Carl Stepp
minor editing
made*

DSE:NRRC 2/24/78
HRDenton
D:IE
EVOlgenau 2/17/78
E. EDO
OCA
2/17/78

OFFICE	REGION I	RCI	RCI	X00S	ELD	DD:IE
SURNAME	Dircks	Shewmaker	Moseley	Jordan	Volgenau	J. Davis
DATE	2/2/78	2/2/78	2/2/78	2/2/78	2/23/78	2/2/78