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Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: NPDES noncompliance notification: on 950205 to 16,33 wild  
ducks entrained in intake cribs & subsequently collected on  
intake screens within screenhouse. Suspect ducks entrained  
while feeding on zebra mussels.

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March 23, 1995

AEP:NRC:1208G

Docket Nos.: 50-315  
50-316

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

Gentlemen:

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2  
NOTIFICATION OF ENTRAINMENT OF WILD DUCKS

This notification is forwarded pursuant to Section 5.4.2, Appendix "B" of the Cook Nuclear Plant Technical Specifications. Thirty-three wild ducks were entrained in the circulating water system intake cribs and subsequently collected on the Cook Nuclear Plant travelling screens. The entrainment of the ducks does not represent a violation of state or local statute. At their request, however, a notification summarizing the duck entrainment situation was made to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The following summary is provided for your information.

From February 5 to 16, 1995, thirty-three wild ducks were entrained in the Cook Nuclear Plant intake cribs and subsequently collected on the intake screens within the screenhouse. The species are believed to be one common merganser and thirty-two lesser scaup.

Preceding the February 5 - 16, period, we believe a large number of scaup were wintering on lakes in this area, possibly due to the unusually mild weather conditions which existed early this year. During the weeks of February 5 and February 12, 1995, harsh winter conditions caused available inland lakes to quickly freeze over. These conditions caused the ducks to relocate to the area of the Plant's intake/discharge, where open waters and a food supply (zebra mussels attached to limestone riprap and intake structures) exist. Up to 700 ducks had been observed rafting in the open discharge waters.

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The plant is currently operating in the de-icing mode where a portion of the plant's discharge water is routed through one of the three intake tunnels, effectively preventing frazzle ice from forming on the submerged intake cribs. This re-alignment causes the intake water velocity in the remaining two tunnels to increase. We believe that the ducks were entrained when they fed on zebra mussels attached to the submerged intake crib bar racks, and they either swam inside the racks or were overcome by the pull of the intake water into the plant.


Please note that the intake cribs were cleaned of zebra mussels on September 6, 1994, at a cost of approximately \$58,240. This cleaning has proven effective in previous years in preventing duck entrainment. When the shore ice recedes and allows safe access to the intake cribs, we will conduct an inspection dive to determine if any re-infestation has occurred on the intake racks.

The plant is normally operated in the de-icing mode for plant safety reasons until mid-March. Full circulating water pump flow is maintained to maximize unit efficiency. The flow could be decreased by taking a circulating water pump off line and/or taking the plant out of the de-icing mode.

Exiting the de-ice mode could make a difference in actual velocity at the intake racks, however, this is not possible until the ice build up around the plant disappears. We will switch off deice mode as soon as it is considered to be safe by our operating parameters.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this notification, please contact Douglas Malin (614) 223-2050 or Gordon Arent (614) 223-2048.

Sincerely,

*for*   
E. E. Fitzpatrick  
Vice President

eh

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