

DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT  
STEAM PRODUCTION

May 18, 1981

TELEPHONE AREA 704  
373-4063

Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: McGuire Nuclear Station Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-369

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-369/81-59. This report concerns the flow rate measuring device for the Conventional Waste water treatment line being declared inoperable. This incident was considered to be of no significance with respect to the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,

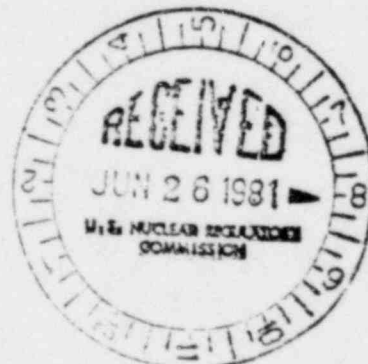
*William O. Parker, Jr.*  
William O. Parker, Jr.

RWO/djs  
Attachment

cc: Director  
Office of Management and Program Analysis  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Bill Lavalee  
Nuclear Safety Analysis Center  
Post Office Box 10412  
Palo Alto, California 94303

Ms. M. J. Graham  
Resident Inspector-NRC  
McGuire Nuclear Station



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McGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION

INCIDENT REPORT

REPORT NUMBER: 81-59

REPORT DATE: May 8, 1981

OCCURRENCE DATE: April 18, 1981

FACILITY: McGuire Unit 1, Cornelius, N.C.

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE: The flow rate measuring device or the Conventional Waste (WC) water treatment line was declared inoperable.

CONDITION PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE: On April 14, 1981 at 1934 hours, water from the settling pond was being released when it was noticed that the WC discharge flow meter's strip chart recorder was not functioning properly. The digital read out of the meter did not correspond with its chart recorder. This was reported to the Shift Supervisor who inturn declared the instrument inoperable. This was a reportable incident pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8.

APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE: The flow rate measuring device (Model 1870 Flow Meter) had been set-up to read and record the level of the flow stream during discharge. This was done by adjusting and changing several control switches on the flow meter to different settings. The MODE rotary switch which selects the mode of operation was moved to the FLOW RATE position at device number 4 instead of being at the LEVEL position. This caused the strip chart recorder to give wrong indications.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE: On April 18, 1981 at 1120 hours, a release had just been initiated from the WC settling pond when it was noticed that the flow meter's strip chart recorder was not recording the correct flow rate. The flow meter's digital readout indicated a level equivalent to 457 gpm but the chart recorder did not correspond. At that time, Chemistry personnel were not sure if the instrument was considered inoperable since its digital readout was functioning properly. At 1320 hours (two hours later), another reading was recorded at 457 gpm. This time, the Shift Supervisor was notified of the problem and he declared the instrument inoperable (1324 hours). It was found that the MODE rotary switch was placed in the FLOW RATE, DEVICE NO. 4 position. The instrument cabinet was provided with a pad lock to prevent access by non authorized personnel. However, when the ISCO Composite sampler was installed (4/13/81 to 4/15/81), it is believed that the MODL select switch may have been moved to that position because the cabinet had to be opened to install the sampler. The flow meter's MODE select switch was put back to the LEVEL position and the instrument was checked and calibrated for proper operation. The strip chart recorder was also verified to be functioning properly. The flow meter was declared operable at 1545 hours on that same day.

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SAFETY ANALYSIS: The health and safety of the public were not affected by this incident because the flow meter was back in service within 2 1/2 hours. Action Statement 31 of Technical Specification 3.3.3.8. requires flow rate be estimated at least once per 4 hours during actual releases and this may continue for up to 30 days. Moreover, since there is only new fuel in the core, there should be no radioactive effluent releases through the WC system.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: Flow was estimated three times during the actual release when the flow meter was inoperable. The flow meter's MODE select switch was repositioned to the proper (LEVEL) position. The instrument was tested and calibrated for proper operation and was declared operable at 1545 hours on April 18, 1981.