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DUKE POWER

May 9, 1991

Mr. J. Lanny Robinson
South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control
Catawba District Office
P. O. Box 100
Fort Lawn, South Carolina 29714

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station
Chemical Metal Cleaning Non-Compliance
File: CN-702.26

As per your conversation with Mr. Robert Wylie, Duke Power Company, Catawba Nuclear Station, this report serves to document the subject event.

Catawba Nuclear Station has permission to chemically clean the Nuclear Service Water (RN) pump bearings and has conducted this process many times. Essentially, the chemical cleaning of RN pump bearings is performed to ensure operability. The result of this cleaning operation removes silt and sediment deposits which restrict RN pump bearing cooling water flow. After the cleaning and rinse process, the solution is overflowed to the pump pit where it mixes with the water in the pit. The pit is isolated during the entire cleaning process which allows copper, iron and pH samples to be obtained prior to release. Normally, the pit volume will be mixed with Low Pressure Service Water before discharging through Outfall 001.

On May 3, 1991, RN 2B pump underwent a chemical metal cleaning. Typically, the Chemistry section would be notified once the pit containing the RN 2B pump was filled to an operational level so that a representative sample could be taken prior to its release. However, the RN 2B pump was turned on prior to sampling, resulting in approximately 250,000 gallons being discharged into the Standby Nuclear Service Water Pond (SNSWP). It is estimated that the discharge occurred over a 25 minute period starting at 1354 hrs. on May 4, 1991.

As a result, SCDHEC, Columbia, was notified at 1650 on May 4, 1991. Mr. Jacob Baker of SCDHEC, Columbia, returned the initial phone call and then contacted Lanny Robinson, SCDHEC, Fort Lawn. Mr. Lanny Robinson in turn contacted Robert Wylie at 1730 hrs. Mr. Lanny Robinson requested that a written report documenting the subject event be submitted within five days. A copy of this report will be attached to May's monthly DMR for the station as well.

Subsequent to this event, the SNSWP was inspected and no environmental impact was observed by Duke Power Company. Presently, an in-house review of the procedures used and the overall process is being conducted. This process will identify the necessary actions needed to prevent a recurrence.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mitch Griggs at (704)373-7080.

J.S. Carter, Technical System Manager
Nuclear Environmental Compliance

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