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July 15, 1985

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: E. G. Adensam, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 4

Subject: McGuire Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370
Technical Specifications for the
Groundwater Monitoring System

Dear Mr. Denton:

This letter is in response to NRC staff questions concerning Duke's license amendment request of October 31, 1984. This amendment request concerned the McGuire Nuclear Station Groundwater Monitoring System.

The proposed amendment seeks to eliminate inconsistencies between the existing Technical Specifications and the capabilities of the Groundwater Monitoring System as installed at McGuire Nuclear Station. Presently, the interior groundwater monitors detect and alarm the exterior groundwater level rise when it is 2' - 8" above the monitored floor level. Contrary to this, the current Technical Specifications specify that the interior groundwater level monitors detect and alarm when the groundwater level rises to the top of the monitored floor slab. Since the monitors in questions alarm at 2' - 8" above the floor level rather than at floor level, there is less time for the operators to respond and take action for an alarm prior to the groundwater level reaching the next monitored level of 5 feet. Duke Power has analyzed this situation to determine how much time is lost and what impact this has on operator response time.

For this analysis total blockage of the underground drainage system was used as the worst case scenario (discussed in the McGuire Nuclear Station FSAR Section 2.4.13.5). It was calculated that with the underground drainage system totally blocked, it would take 38.4 ± 2 hours for the water level to rise from a monitored floor slab level to 5 feet above the slab level. For the as built situation, it was calculated that it would take 19.2 ± 2 hours for the water level to rise from 2' - 8" above a monitored floor slab level to 5 feet above the slab level. This analysis indicates a difference of approximately 19.2 hours for undetected groundwater level rise.

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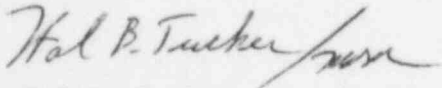
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The groundwater monitor alarm procedure was reviewed and the determination was made that it would take an operator approximately 10 minutes to respond to a groundwater level alarm and take appropriate actions. The results of this analysis illustrate that there is no impact on operator response time. The amount of response time continues to allow operators time to take required actions without jeopardizing any safety margins.

Please feel free to contact us if you require any further information on this topic.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hal B. Tucker".

Hal B. Tucker

WHM:smh

cc: Dr. J. N. Grace, Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
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W. T. Orders
Senior Resident Inspector
McGuire Nuclear Station