

## Communication with State of North Carolina

4/1/09

Mike Robinson  
Heather Baxter  
Dale Dusenbury – Radiation Protection Section  
Colleen Sullins – Water Quality  
Greg Barley

- Voluntary communication in response to an underground leak of the Cooling Tower Blowdown Line.
- 

Following information was provided:

In accordance with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) GWPI **all personnel briefing State and local officials should provide the information contained in Section 1.** (NEI, of which Progress Energy is a member, is the policy organization of the nuclear energy and technologies industry and participates in both the national and global policy-making process.)

**Section 2** provides additional information that may be helpful during briefings.

### **Section 1**

- This **Informal Communication** is being made as part of the NEI Groundwater Protection Initiative.
- Progress Energy's highest concern is the safety and well-being of our employees and the public. We are committed to being good stewards of the environmental resources entrusted to us.
- During routine monitoring, Progress Energy Environmental Specialist found water containing low levels of tritium inside a manhole on plant property. EPA guidelines allow for concentration up to 20,000 picocuries per liter for safe drinking water. The highest levels found at Harris Plant were 2,120 picocuries per liter.
- Progress Energy hired an independent hydrologist to pinpoint the source of the tritium and groundwater flow characteristics. The hydrologist determined the source of the tritiated water appears to be a leak in a line that runs from the cooling tower to Harris Lake, a man-made lake owned by Progress Energy. This determination was made April 1, 2009.
- The leak is isolated to the immediate area surrounding the Cooling Tower line on a peninsula surrounded on three sides by Harris Lake. The closest site boundary to the leak is 1.79 miles away. Leak rate is undetermined at this time, but appears to be small.
- Monitoring indicates the water with the low levels of tritium is contained on plant property. Based on the tritium levels and location, there is no dose impact or threat to the health and safety of the public or to employees.

J-67

- We are actively working to address this issue. Our engineers are studying the pipe to determine the best course of action. Progress Energy is committed to fixing the pipe. Additional information will be provided in the annual monitoring report. In the interim, Progress Energy Environmental Specialists continue to monitor the area.

Agreed to participate in split sampling with the State of North Carolina.

### **5/14/09**

Split sampling with the state of North Carolina. Patrick Cox of DENR-RPS came onsite and sampled the groundwater monitoring wells. State of North Carolina received samples for analysis. Discussed Cooling Tower Blowdown Line and CTBD well locations.

### **5/22/09**

#### **Environmental Surveillance Committee Meeting**

- Discussed split sampling at the Environmental Surveillance Committee Meeting.
- Talked about current status of split samples.
- Talked about the historical

### **6/17/09**

Conference call with Eric Rice – Division of Water Quality, Aquifer Protection.

- Status of Cooling Tower Blowdown Leak
- Sampling results of wells.