

LOCAL NEWS

Oconee well water

Samples taken near nuclear station show no radioactivity from plant

By Anna Simon
CLEMSON BUREAU
asimon@greenvillenews.com

Samples taken from wells near Oconee Nuclear Station showed no radioactive materials in groundwater coming from the plant, the state Department of

Health and Environmental Control announced Wednesday.

"The results did not show any measurable levels of tritium in any of the samples," said Chris Staton, DHEC Division of Waste Assessment and

Emergency Response director.

DHEC sampled wells near the nuclear plant last February as part of an initiative to mirror a nuclear industry effort to determine on-site groundwater quality at nuclear power plants throughout the country.

DHEC staff tested eight locations including five private wells and three sam-

tritium-free

plings of surface water surrounding the facility. The samples were initially tested for tritium, gross alpha and gross beta, and general bacterial water quality.

The tests examine the total effects these materials can have on human health over time.

Tests showed the Oconee Nuclear Station has had no adverse affect on

the local groundwater; however, they found naturally occurring radioactive materials in four private wells, Staton said.

Residents whose wells showed levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials or higher levels of bacteria were given information on how to reduce the intake of those materials, Staton said.