

September 2, 2005

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-05-005

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of possible safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

| <b><u>Facility</u></b>           | <b><u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u></b> |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Duke Energy Corporation          | Notification of Unusual Event                   |
| Oconee, Unit 3                   | Alert   |
| Seneca, SC 29672                 | Site Area Emergency                             |
| Dockets/License: 0500287, DPR-55 | General Emergency                               |
|                                  | X Not Applicable                                |

Subject: Reactor Trip with Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Initiation

This is an update to Event Notification 41966, regarding the Oconee Unit 3 reactor trip at 2:28 p.m., on August 31, 2005. The apparent cause of the event was the tripping of the normal power supply breaker for the digital rod control system, while the alternate power supply was unavailable due to routine breaker testing. This loss of control power to the digital rod control system resulted in tripping the control rods; but, inhibited the reactor trip signal to the Integrated Control System. This prevented the main steam header pressure control setpoint from being automatically increased for post-trip reactor coolant system (RCS) temperature control. Consequently, RCS cooldown from the turbine bypass valves maintaining main steam header pressure at approximately 885 psig (versus the post-trip setpoint of 1010 psig) resulted in RCS pressure decreasing below the 1600 psig ECCS initiation setpoint. At 2:33 p.m., after reestablishing pressurizer level, the Engineered Safeguards System was taken out of "automatic" and placed in "manual" bypass to facilitate termination of ECCS injection and realignment of equipment. At this time, it appears that main steam safeties lifted when the reactor initially tripped and all ECCS actuations occurred as designed.

The resident inspectors responded to the Unit 3 control room at the time of the event. Currently, Unit 3 remains in Mode 3 (Hot Standby), with the licensee's investigation into the event still in progress. Region II will initiate a special inspection next week to assess the circumstances surrounding the event.

Region II management received initial notification of this occurrence by the resident inspector at 2:30 p.m., August 31, 2005. This information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee/State and is current as of 10:00 a.m., September 2, 2005.

CONTACT: Robert Carroll (404)562-4511