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SUBJECT: RO#287/78-16 on 781123:ES Channel A Wide-range pressure indication drifted high & was manually tripped,due to excessive moisture in penetration caused by leaking roof.

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DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE UNIT 3

Report Number: RO-287/78-16

Report Date: December 22, 1978

Occurrence Date: November 23, 1978

Facility: Oconee Unit 3, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: ES and RPS Settings Less Conservative than Technical Specification Requirements

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 99% Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

At 1346 on November 23, 1978, the wide-range pressure indication on RC Loop A was observed to be reading high. Operators manually placed ES Channel A in a tripped condition. An attempt to correct the problem was made by replacing the sensing unit and the amplifier. At 0657 on November 27, 1978 the RC Loop A wide-range pressure indication again drifted high and operators manually tripped ES Channel A. At 0800 RPS Channel A was bypassed due to abnormally high hot-leg temperature readings. At 1417 and 1446 respectively the ES and RPS channels were back to normal and were returned to service.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The spurious behavior of the RPS and ES channels apparently resulted from water on the penetration associated with the channels. The source of the water was rainwater leakage through the Auxiliary Building roof, into the Purge Room (directly above the Penetration Room) and down the outside of the Reactor Building wall into the Penetration Room. The roof leakage was a result of removal of some roofing material in order to facilitate the accomplishment of a station modification. The rainwater apparently seeped through an expansion joint in the roof. The water was also able to enter the Penetration Room through an expansion joint.

Analysis of Occurrence:

Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.5.1.2 allows, by reference to Table 3.5.1-1, operation with a minimum of two operable ES or RPS channels (excluding RPS power range) and one redundant channel. This condition was maintained throughout the occurrence. The abnormally high readings potentially constituted operation with both the ES and RPS channel setpoints less conservative than required by Technical Specifications. However, the operability of the remaining channels and the availability of sufficient redundancy assured the functional capability of both systems. Thus, public health and safety was not adversely affected by this occurrence.

Corrective Action:

The leak on the Auxiliary Building roof has been temporarily fixed until such time as the modification can be completed. The temporary repairs have successfully precluded further problems during subsequent rains. The penetration associated with this occurrence has also been wrapped with polyethylene as an additional corrective measure.