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 FACIL: 50-287 OCONEE #3, DUKE POWER CO.  
 AUTH. NAME: WILSON, K.R. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: DUKE POWER CO.  
 RECIP. NAME: WILSON, K.R. RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: DUKE POWER CO.

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SUBJECT: LER#78-017/03L-0 on 781129:ES Analog Channels A & C were tripped due to apparent drift in the narrow-range pressure transmitters. Caused by temp or humidity transients in the penetration room.

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Corrective Action:

The transmitters associated with both channels were recalibrated to restore them to their normal operational state and returned to service. No further corrective action has been identified with regard to the generic problem. In order to help evaluate the effects of temperature on transmitter drift the temperature in the penetration room, will be more closely monitored and recorded during calibration.

DUKE POWER COMPANY  
OCONEE UNIT 3

Report Number: RO-287/78-17

Report Date: December 29, 1978

Occurrence Date: November 29, 1978

Facility: Oconee Unit 3, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Operation with ES System in a Degraded Mode

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 99% Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

During routine instrument surveillance on November 29, 1978, ES Analog Channel A Reactor Building Narrow-Range Pressure was determined to be reading high. At 0810 the channel was tripped to maintain required redundancy in the ES System. By 1230 the transmitter had been recalibrated and returned to service. The channel would have tripped at approximately 4.6 psig rather than less than 4 psig as required.

At 1330 ES Analog Channel C was determined to be similarly reading high and the channel was tripped. The channel's narrow-range pressure transmitter was recalibrated and returned to service by 1445. The channel would have tripped at approximately 4.2 psig rather than 4 psig as required. Also during the above sequence of events, at approximately 1212, a spurious trip occurred on ES Channel B which resulted in actuation of ES Channels 1 through 6 (HPI, LPI, Building Isolation). This is considered to be a separate incident and will be addressed in Reportable Occurrence Report RO-287/78-18.

Cause of Occurrence:

The ES pressure transmitters have malfunctioned on seven previous occasions at Oconee for varied reasons. It continues to be considered that the problem is associated with temperature and, possibly, humidity transients within the penetration rooms. A program has been established to investigate the actual mechanism by which the transmitters apparently drift with changes in temperature. No results are presently available.

Analysis of Occurrence:

Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.5.1.2 requires the operability of two ES pressure channels and a minimum degree of redundancy of one. Throughout this incident, except as noted in the description, these requirements were met. Since the operability of sufficient channels was maintained and sufficient redundancy was available there was no reduction in the reliability of the ES System. This incident did not adversely effect public health and safety.

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