



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

December 17, 1991

Docket No. 50-269, 50-270  
and 50-287

MEMORANDUM FOR: T. Murley J. Zwolinski B. Grimes  
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THRU: David J. Lange, Acting Director *DJL*  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

FROM: Leonard A. Wiens, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

SUBJECT: DAILY HIGHLIGHT

Oconee Unit 3

On December 15, 1991, while in cold shutdown, Duke Power discovered a leak in the suction piping of the Oconee Unit 3 decay heat removal system. The leak which is currently estimated at 1/10 GPM, is coming from a 3 inch crack that begins in a 3/4 inch relief line fillet weld connection to the 12 inch suction piping (schedule 10, 3/16 inch wall thickness, stainless steel pipe) and extends into the 12 inch piping. This portion of the decay heat removal system is isolable from the reactor coolant system by two motor operated valves. The leak was found during routine inspection. DPC currently plans to cut out the affected portion of pipe (approximately 1-2 ft.) and weld in a replacement piece by approximately Sunday of this week. A patch weld fix was considered by the facility licensee but not implemented in order to perform a detailed failure analysis of the cracked pipe. To accomplish the repair, plans are currently under way to remove the head of the vessel and flood the refueling cavity using spent fuel cooling to provide suction to the decay heat removal system. The feasibility and safety analysis of this decay heat removal lineup

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is currently being evaluated by DPC under a 50.59 review. Oconee Unit 3 is currently in cold shutdown with the affected portion of the decay heat removal system in service at approximately 30 lbs of suction pressure. The leak can be isolated and suction transferred to the borated water storage tank if necessary. Region II (DRS) and NRR (Materials Branch) are closely monitoring the licensee's activities regarding this matter.



Leonard A. Wiens, Project Manager  
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cc: NRR Project Directors

RCapra, 14B2  
CMiller, 14E21  
WButler, 14D4  
JStolz, 14D6  
EAdensam, 14B20  
HBerkow, 14H22  
FHebdon, 14B21  
LMarsh, 13D18  
RBarrett, 13D6  
JHannon, 13E21  
JLarkins, 13H3  
SBlack, 13H15  
TQuay, 13E16  
RPierson, 11H3  
SWeiss, 11B20  
JCraig, 11F23  
JDyer, 11D23  
CBerlinger, 8D22  
CGrimes, 11E22  
CYCheng, 7D4  
JNorberg, 7E23  
GBagchi, 7H15  
SNewberry, 8H3  
FRosa, 7E4  
CMcCracken, 8D1  
RJones, 8E23  
LNorrholm, 9D4  
PMcKee, 9D26  
RErickson, 9H19  
WBeckner, 10E4  
LCunningham, 10D4  
WBrach, 10A19  
JWermiel, 10D24  
RGallo, 10D22

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