NRC FORM 195 (2-76)

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 50-269/270/287

FILE NUMBER

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TO:	FROM:	DATE OF DOCUMENT
Mr Rusche	Duke Power Company Charlotte, NC W O Parker Jr	8-23-76
		DATE RECEIVED 8-26-76

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DESCRIPTION

Ltr furnishing info concerning limiting conditions for operation with regard to the electrical system.....& advising of related incident which occurred on 8-18-76 .....

PLANT NAME: Oconee 1-3

ENCLOSURE

Do Not Remove
Do Not

ACKNOWLEDGED

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION ENVIRO 8-30-76 ehf

SAFETY			
ASSIGNED AD:			ASSIGNED AD:
BRANCH CHIEF:	Schwencer (5)		BRANCH CHIEF:
PROJECT MANAGER:	Zech		PROJECT MANAGER:
LIC. ASST.:	Sheppard		LIC. ASST.:

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

✓	REG FILE		SYSTEMS SAFETY		PLANT SYSTEMS		SITE SAFETY &
	NRC PDR		HEINEMAN		TEDESCO		ENVIRO ANALYSIS
✓	I & E (2)		SCHROEDER		BENAROYA		DENTON & MULLER
✓	OELD				LAINAS		
✓	GOSSICK & STAFF		ENGINEERING		IPPOLITO		ENVIRO TECH.
	MIPC		MACCARRY		KIRKWOOD		ERNST
	CASE		KNIGHT				BALLARD
	HANAUER		SIHWEIL		OPERATING REACTORS		SPANGLER
	HARLESS		PAWLICKI		STELLO		
							SITE TECH.
	PROJECT MANAGEMENT		REACTOR SAFETY		OPERATING TECH.		GAMMILL
	BOYD		ROSS	✓	EISENHUT		STEPP
	P. COLLINS		NOVAK	✓	SHAO		HULMAN
	HOUSTON		ROSZTOCZY	✓	BAER		
	PETERSON		CHECK	✓	BUTLER		SITE ANALYSIS
	MELTZ			✓	GRIMES		VOLLMER
	HELTEMES		AT. & I				BUNCH
	SKOVHOLT		SALTZMAN				J. COLLINS
			RUTBERG				KREGER

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

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✓	LPDR: Walhalla, SC	NAT LAB:	BROOKHAVEN NAT LAB	8709
✓	TIC:	REG. VIE	ULRIKSON(ORNL)	
✓	NSIC:	LA PDR		
	ASLB:	CONSULTANTS		
✓	ACRS/6 CYS ~~HOLDING~~/SENT TO LA Sheppard			

NRC FORM 195 (2-76)

DUKE POWER COMPANY
POWER BUILDING
422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

TELEPHONE: AREA 704
373-4083

August 23, 1976

Mr. Benard C. Rusche
Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287

Dear Mr. Rusche:

The Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specifications 3.7, "Auxiliary Electrical Systems," provides Limiting Conditions for Operation relative to the Oconee Electrical System. Provisions are made for operation in degraded modes for specified periods of time to perform maintenance or test or if equipment is not operable. Further, any degradation beyond the detailed conditions of the specification are required, by Specification 3.7.8, to be reported to the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement within 24 hours and a safety evaluation for the specific situation is to be performed by Duke Power Company. The results of this evaluation together with the plans for expediting the return to unrestricted operation shall be submitted to the NRC, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation within five days. The purpose of this letter is to describe a situation which has occurred at Oconee Nuclear Station and to provide the required written report.

On August 18, 1976, at approximately 1300 hours, it was determined that the Oconee Unit 3 125 volt DC instrumentation and control power system batteries (3CA and 3CB) had not been tested in accordance with Technical Specification 4.6.7.c within the specified surveillance time period. This is a one-hour discharge test at the required maximum safeguards load. Since these batteries had not been tested, they were considered inoperable based upon the definition "operable" in Specification 1.3.

An evaluation of this situation was performed. It was determined that ten battery discharge tests have been performed at Oconee (four I&C battery tests for Oconee 1, two I&C battery tests for Oconee 2, two switchyard battery tests and two Keowee Hydro Station battery tests) with all batteries performing satisfactorily. The voltage and temperature

of pilot cells have been measured five times per week and the specific gravity and voltage of each cell have been measured monthly with no indications of battery degradation. Annunciators provided in the control room give assurance of continued proper operation of the battery chargers. From the above tests and indications and a review of the service life and capacity of these batteries, it was concluded that the Oconee 3 instrument and control batteries should be capable of performing the one-hour test discharge at the required maximum safeguards load.

In view of the above discussion concerning the operability of the Oconee 3 I&C batteries and the fact that redundancy is provided to the Oconee 3 125 VDC I&C system from the Oconee 1 I&C batteries, it was considered that maintaining Oconee 3 at power was the safest course of action based upon the short period of time necessary to perform the test discharge and the minimization of maneuvering transients. Oconee 3 battery 3CB was removed from service and the discharge test was completed by 1850 hours on August 18, 1976 with the battery restored to operable status by 1630, August 20, 1976. The 3CA battery was then removed from service and the discharge test was completed at 1925 August 20, 1976. Battery 3CA was returned to operable status on August 23, 1976 following the battery charge. It is considered that the limiting conditions for operation specified in Technical Specification 3.7.1 are now being met.

Very truly yours,

W. O. Parker, Jr.

William O. Parker, Jr. By MST

MST:vr

cc: Mr. Norman C. Moseley