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FROM: Duke Power Co. Charlotte, N.C. A.C.Thies		DATE OF DOC 3-17-75	DATE REC'D 3-20-75	LTR XX	TWX	RPT	OTHER
TO: Norman C. Moseley		ORIG None signed	CC	OTHER	SENT AEC PDR SENT LOCAL PDR		XXX XXX
CLASS	UNCLASS XXX	PROP INFO	INPUT	NO CYS REC'D 1	DOCKET NO: 50-270-287		
DESCRIPTION: Ltr. reporting abnormal Occurr. 50-270/75-5 & 50-287/75-5. Trans the following:				ENCLOSURES: Abnormal Occurrence reports # 50-270/75-5, 50-287/75-5 concerning failure of borated water storage tank level indicators.			
PLANT NAME: Oconee 2&3				<p align="center">ACKNOWLEDGED DO NOT REMOVE</p>			
FOR ACTION/INFORMATION							

VCR 3-20-75

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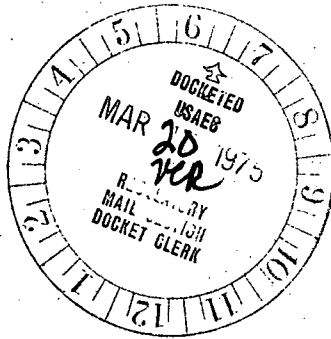
POWER BUILDING

422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28201

A. C. THIES
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCTION AND TRANSMISSION

P. O. Box 2178

March 17, 1975



Mr. Norman C. Moseley, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Suite 818
230 Peachtree Street, Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Oconee Unit 1
Docket Nos. 50-287, 50-270

Dear Mr. Moseley:

Pursuant to Sections 6.2 and 6.6.2 of the Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specifications, please find attached a report which describes two similar occurrences. The report is designated Abnormal Occurrence Reports AO-287/75-5 and AO-270/75-5.

Very truly yours,

A. C. Thies

ACT:vr
Attachment

cc: Mr. Angelo Giambusso

DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE UNITS 2 AND 3

Report Nos.: AO-287/75-5 and AO-270/75-5

Report Date: March 17, 1975

Occurrence Dates: March 3, 1975 and March 9, 1975

Facilities: Oconee Units 3 and 2, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrences: Failure of borated water storage tank level indication

Conditions Prior to Occurrences: Units 3 and 2 at power operation

Description of Occurrences:

On March 3 and March 9, 1975, the Oconee 3 and Oconee 2 control operators noted that the level instrumentation for the borated water storage tanks had become inoperable. In the first instance, the indication on one channel of Unit 3 decreased from 49 to 0 feet. In the second instance, the Unit 2 level indication decreased from 49 to 38 feet. Technical Specification 3.3.1(f) requires that both channels of borated water storage tank level instrumentation be operable. In both instances, normal level indication was restored within 30 minutes.

Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrences:

The apparent cause of these occurrences was the extremely cold ambient temperature causing moisture entrained in an instrument air line to freeze in the supply regulator valves for the BWST level instruments. A contributing cause to this occurrence was the inoperability of the station air dryers located on the outlet of the air compressors.

Analysis of Occurrences:

During the short periods of time that the borated water storage tank level indications were inoperable, the spent fuel pool, Reactor Building sump, high activity waste tank and the low activity waste tank were monitored to verify that water level in the BWST was not decreasing. Also, since the BWST was initially considerably warmer than 40°F, it would have remained above 40°F for this short period of time. Thus, since the proper volume of borated water was present in the BWST and the temperature of the water was above the crystallization point, the BWST would have performed its designed function in the unlikely event of a loss-of-coolant accident. It is concluded that the health and safety of the public was not affected.

Corrective Action:

The regulator valves which provide the air required for operation of BWST level indication were thawed. The instrument air lines which supply the BWST level indication are being heat traced to prevent future occurrences of moisture freezing during periods of low ambient temperature. This modification will be completed by April 10, 1975. In the interim, the lines are being purged of moisture on a daily basis. All four station air dryers have been rebuilt and are presently in operation to limit the entrained moisture.