

DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

December 23, 1980

TELEPHONE: AREA 704
373-4083

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

US NRC
REGULATORY SERVICES
BRANCH

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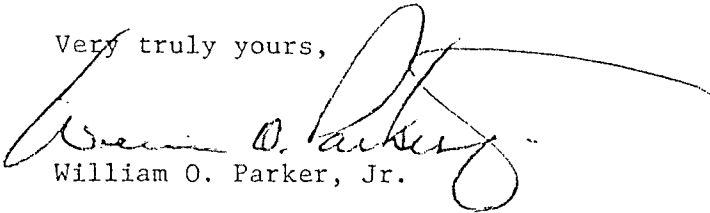
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
RECEIVED

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-287

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-287/80-16. This report is submitted pursuant to Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2), which concerns operation in a degraded mode permitted by a limiting condition for operation, and describes an incident which is considered to be of no significance with respect to its effect on the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,


William O. Parker, Jr.

JLJ:scs
Attachment

cc: Director
Office of Management & Program Analysis
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Bill Lavalley
Nuclear Safety Analysis Center
P. O. Box 10412
Palo Alto, California 94303

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DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3

Report Number: RO-287/80-16

Report Date: December 23, 1980

Occurrence Date: November 23, 1980

Facility: Oconee Unit 3, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Fire Detector String B-2 Removed From Service

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Oconee 3 99% FP

Description of Occurrence:

At approximately 1115 hours on November 23, 1980, the fire detection string B-2 went into an alarm condition. A subsequent investigation revealed that no fires were present. The string was then declared inoperable, and a fire watch was established over the affected area. The string was declared operable at 1245 the same day. This constitutes operation in a degraded mode per Technical Specification 3.17.1 and is thus reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2).

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

This incident was the result of dust build up in the detector, which was caused by the large amount of construction activity at the site. This is a recurring problem with the detectors. There is no easy solution as long as the construction continues.

Analysis of Occurrence:

The fire detection string was only out of service for 1 1/2 hours. During this short period of inoperability, a fire watch for the affected area was maintained as required by Technical Specification 3.17.1. Thus, this incident was of no significance with respect to safe operation, and the health and safety of the public were not affected.

Corrective Action:

The detector was cleaned and verified operable before returning to service. All accessible fire detectors in the areas of roll up doors or other areas susceptible to dusty conditions should be cleaned on an increased frequency to remove dust buildup.