

DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

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

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

January 14, 1981

TELEPHONE: AREA 704
373-4083

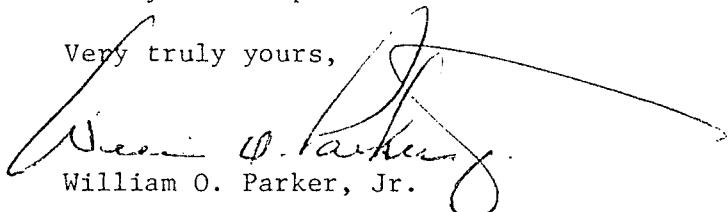
Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-287

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-287/80-17. 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 Lavallee
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-287/80-17

Report Date: January 14, 1981

Occurrence Date: December 15, 1980

Facility: Oconee Unit 3, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Fire Detector String No. 8 Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Cold Shutdown

Description of Occurrence:

At 0400 hours on December 15, 1980, String No. 8 of the Unit 3 Pyr-A-Larm fire detection system inoperable due to spurious alarms on the string. It was verified that no actual fires were present, and an hourly fire watch was established. 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:

The cause of this incident is attributed to an unusual service condition whereby excessive dust had built up on the detectors and increased their sensitivity. This is a recurring incident at Oconee.

Analysis of Occurrence:

The fire detection string was returned to service within the time permitted. During the 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 immediate corrective action verified that no actual fires were present. An hourly fire watch was established per Technical Specification 3.17.1. Fire detector 3X1 was replaced, and the operability of the string was verified. As a follow-up to previous incidents, the problem of dust collection on Pyr-A-Larm detectors is being reviewed based upon the physical mounting of various detectors and the frequency of detector cleaning.