

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

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

October 15, 1979

TELEPHONE: AREA 704
373-4083

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

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

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

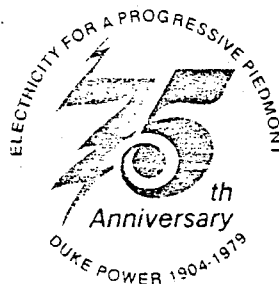
Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-269/79-31. This report is submitted pursuant to Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specifications 6.2 and 6.6.2.1.b(2), which concerns operation in a degraded mode permitted by a limiting condition for operation, and describes an incident which is considered 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. by WAH
William O. Parker, Jr.

SRL/sch
Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Management Information
and Program Control



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DUKE POWER COMPANY
Oconee Nuclear Station

Report Number: RO-269/79-31

Report Date: October 15, 1979

Occurrence Date: September 25, 1979

Facility: Oconee Nuclear Station, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: High Pressure Service Water Pump Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Oconee 1 95% Full Power
Oconee 2 100% Full Power
Oconee 3 Cold Shutdown

Description of Occurrence:

At 0215 on September 25, 1979, high pressure service water (HPSW) pump B was declared inoperable and removed from service when water was observed to be draining from the pump's motor cooler casing during a routine inspection of the Turbine Building basement. Upon removing the casing and pressurizing the cooler, a pinhole leak from one of the cooler tubes was discovered. The cooler was drained and the leaking tube was soldered. The cooler was then repressurized to verify that the leak had been eliminated. The pump was declared operable and returned to service by 1715 on September 26, 1979.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

HPSW pump B was declared inoperable when water was observed to be draining from its motor cooler casing. One of the cooler's tubes was discovered to have a pinhole leak. The leak is believed to be the result of erosion. Although the pump motor is operated only infrequently, water is continuously circulated through the cooler tubes.

Analysis of Occurrence:

Two redundant pumps are provided to supply HPSW flow for the fire suppression water system. During the period HPSW pump B was out of service, HPSW pump A was operable and capable of satisfying the fire protection safety requirements of the HPSW system. In addition, the cooler leakage was determined to have been sufficiently small such that operation of HPSW pump B would not have been adversely affected. Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.17.2.1 permits one HPSW pump to be removed from service for up to seven days, provided the redundant pump is operable. HPSW pump B was returned to service approximately 39 hours after it was declared inoperable, well within the time permitted. However, the removal of the pump from service constituted operation in a degraded mode permitted by a limiting condition for operation, and must therefore be reported pursuant to Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2), although it was of no significance with respect to safe operation, and the health and safety of the public were not affected.

Corrective Action:

The motor cooler casing was removed and the cooler was pressurized, revealing a pinhole leak in one of the cooler tubes. The cooler was drained and the leak was soldered. After repressurizing the cooler to verify that the leak had been repaired, the cooler was reinstalled and the pump was declared operable. Since similar leakage has been observed on several occasions, replacement motor coolers have been ordered. Consideration is also being given to adding valves to the cooler supply lines so that cooling water is provided only during operation of the pump motor.