

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

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

November 21, 1980

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US NRC
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES
SERVICES UNIT
TELEPHONE: AREA 70
373-4083

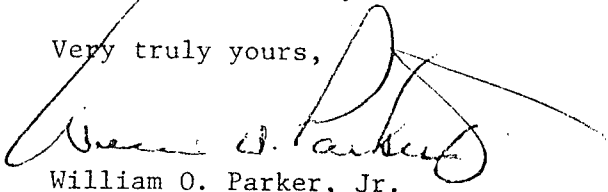
Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-270

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-270/80-23. 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

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 2

Report Number: RO-270/80-23

Report Date: November 21, 1980

Occurrence Date: October 22, 1980

Facility: Oconee Unit 2, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Hydraulic Snubber Found Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Oconee 2 - 100% FP

Description of Occurrence:

At 0900 hours on October 22, 1980, an inoperable snubber and hanger were discovered on the "B" Main Steam Atmospheric Dump Line. A subsequent evaluation revealed the snubber and hanger to be safety-related. Both the snubber and the hanger were repaired within the 72-hour time limit. This constitutes operation in a degraded mode per Technical Specification 3.14.2 and is thus reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2).

The snubber was not required to be functionally tested since the reservoir was full of oil and the orientation of the snubber did not allow the outlet port to be uncovered, thereby possibly allowing air into the cylinder. However, the snubber will be noted as one of the 10% required for ISI functional testing.

The last visual inspection of this snubber was performed June 4, 1980, with no problems reported. The only previous repair on this was to rebuild the snubber valve with a new seal kit.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The snubber was inoperable due to the fact that the piston rod came unscrewed from the piston rod eye. Pipe vibration and/or constant isolation of the piston rod could be the reason for the failure. The nuts on the hanger rod end also came unscrewed, possibly from constant vibration, resulting in its inoperability status.

Analysis of Occurrence:

This failure of the snubber and hanger was an isolated case. Several hangers on either side of the failed one were checked for operability. No other hangers were affected by the failure or pipe vibration. All snubbers are periodically checked, and part of the inspection is to assure that the piston rod is tightly screwed to the piston rod end. If not, it is tightened and noted on the data sheet.

The probability of occurrence of an earthquake is very low. In addition, this inoperability only degraded one snubber and hanger on one of the Main Steam Atmospheric Dumps. All other snubbers and hangers on this system remained operable. This, 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 following corrective action was taken:

- A. The snubber and hanger were repaired and returned to service.
- B. The snubber will be functionally tested during the next inservice inspection of Unit 2.
- C. The hanger and snubber will be evaluated for design adequacy under IE Bulletin 79-14.
- D. Several options are being evaluated to assure that no further such failures occur. Some of these options are:
 1. Star washers with grips.
 2. Set screws installed through piston rod end to piston rod.
 3. Weld piston rod end on to piston rod.