

DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

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

May 18, 1979

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

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 Unit 1
Docket No. 50-269

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-269/79-12. This report is being 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 have no significance with respect to its effect on the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,

William O. Parker Jr.
William O. Parker, Jr. *by WAM*

SRL:scs
Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Management Information
and Program Control

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

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DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE UNIT 1

Report Number: RO-269/79-12

Report Date: May 18, 1979

Occurrence Date: April 19, 1979

Facility: Oconee Unit 1, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Reactor Building Spray Pump Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100% Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

At 1301 on April 19, 1979, Reactor Building (RB) spray pump 1B was removed from service in order to permit performance testing. The pump was started at 1305, but water was observed to be leaking from a short vent line on the pump casing. The leakage rate was determined to be sufficient to cause the pump to be declared inoperable, and it was secured at 1306. Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.3.6(f) permits one RB spray pump to be out of service for up to 72 hours provided that all three RB cooling units are operable. Therefore, although the inoperability of RB spray pump 3B was of no significance with respect to safety, it did constitute operation of the unit 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). Corrective maintenance was begun at approximately 1500 on April 19, and the leakage was determined to be coming through the pipe threads on the vent line, indicating that the pump itself was not defective. The leaking vent line was removed and replaced with a blank plug. A subsequent review of the manufacturer's drawings for the pump indicated that there should have been a plug at that location instead of the vent line. At 1605 the pump was restarted and the performance test was successfully completed. The pump was declared operable and returned to service at 1630 on April 19.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The RB spray pump was declared to be inoperable as a result of water leaking through the pipe threads on a short vent line on the pump casing. Further review of the manufacturer's drawings for the pump revealed that there should have been a plug at that location, rather than the vent line.

Analysis of Occurrence:

It has been shown that in the unlikely event of a design basis loss-of-coolant accident, RB integrity will be maintained provided that one RB spray train and two cooling units are operable. Therefore, the Technical Specifications permit one spray pump to be out of service for up to 72 hours provided that the other pump and all three cooling units are operable. RB spray pump 1A had been tested and determined to be operable immediately prior to removing spray pump 1B from service for testing. In addition, all three RB cooling units were

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operable. The pump was declared operable approximately 3 1/2 hours after it was removed from service for testing, well within the requirements of Technical Specification 3.6.3(f). Therefore, safe operation of the unit was not affected, and the health and safety of the public were not endangered.

Corrective Action:

The water leakage was observed immediately after starting the pump for testing, and the pump was secured. When the source of the leakage was determined to be the pipe threads on a short vent line on the pump casing, the vent line was removed and replaced with a blank plug. The pump was successfully tested and returned to service approximately 3 1/2 hours after removing it from service to initiate the test. Subsequent review of the manufacturer's assembly drawings for the pump revealed that there should have been a plug at that location instead of the vent line. All the remaining spray pumps were inspected and were found to have plugs as specified by the drawings. The reason for the installation of the vent line on RB spray pump 1B could not be determined.

