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 FACIL: 50-269 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Duke Power Co.  
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 RECIP. NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Region 2, Atlanta, Office of the Director

DOCKET #  
05000269

SUBJECT: LER 79-035/03L-0: on 791205, area radiation monitor RIA-6 in routine fuel pool area found to be inoperable during routine verification. Caused by personnel error. Responsible personnel counselled & steps taken to assure monitor repair.

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 TITLE: Incident Reports

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	29 ACRS	16	16			

JAN 11 1980

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ADCL

DUKE POWER COMPANY  
Oconee Unit 1

Report Number: RO-269/79-35

Report Date: January 4, 1980

Occurrence Date: December 5, 1979

Facility: Oconee 1, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Spent Fuel Pool Radiation Monitor Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Refueling Shutdown

Description of Occurrence:

At approximately 1600 on December 5, 1979, area radiation monitor RIA-6 in the spent fuel pool area was discovered to be inoperable during the verification of initial conditions for refueling conducted each shift. Refueling operations for Oconee 1 had commenced on December 3, 1979. Fuel handling in the spent fuel pool was stopped immediately until a portable monitor equivalent to RIA-6 could be sent to the spent fuel pool. Fuel transfer operations then resumed, and procedures were initiated to effect repair of RIA-6.

Apparent Cause:

On August 13, 1979, RIA-6 was discovered to be inoperable, and administrative steps were taken to have it repaired. At that time a removal-and-restoration (R&R) sticker was placed on the monitor. Repairs were completed on August 17, 1979, but the R&R sticker was inadvertently not removed. From August 18 to October 21, 1979, weekly and monthly checks verified the operability of the monitor. From October 28 to December 2, 1979, during the periodic checks it was noted that the monitor was out of service. However, due to the presence of the R&R sticker, it was assumed that repair procedures had been initiated. On December 2, the verification of initial conditions for refueling was completed, but the inoperability of RIA-6 failed to be noted. Therefore, refueling operations commenced with the monitor out of service.

Analysis of Occurrence:

RIA-6 provides a local alarm in the spent fuel pool area in the event of a high radiation level. During the period the monitor was out of service, RIA-41, which monitors the spent fuel pool ventilation air, was operable and would have alerted the control room in the event of high radiation levels. Fuel handling was terminated immediately upon discovering the inoperability of RIA-6 until a portable meter could be substituted, as required by Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.8.9. Therefore this incident constituted operation in a degraded mode permitted by a limiting condition for operation, and must 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 immediate corrective action was to suspend fuel handling in the spent fuel pool area until a portable instrument equivalent to RIA-6 could be provided. The personnel responsible for verifying the initial conditions for refueling were counseled regarding the incident. In addition repair procedures will be reviewed with appropriate personnel to assure that equipment is correctly removed and restored to service, and that any stickers or tags discovered on equipment are checked for validity. These measures are considered to provide sufficient assurance against the occurrence of a similar incident.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT

EXHIBIT A

CONTROL BLOCK: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] (1) (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION)

01 SICNEE 1 2 0 0 - 1 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 | 3 4 1 1 | 1 1 4 5  
7 8 9 0 LICENSEE CODE 14 15 LICENSE NUMBER 25 26 LICENSE TYPE 30 31 CAT 58

CONT  
01 REPORT SOURCE L 6 0 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 9 7 1 2 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 9 8 0 1 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 0 9  
7 8 9 0 DOCKET NUMBER 55 56 EVENT DATE 74 75 REPORT DATE 80

EVENT DESCRIPTION AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES (10)

02 | On December 5, 1979, area radiation monitor RIA-6 in the spent fuel pool area  
03 | was discovered to be inoperable during routine verification of initial condi-  
04 | tions for refueling. Refueling operations had commenced on December 3, 1979.  
05 | Fuel handling in the spent fuel pool was suspended until a portable monitor  
06 | equivalent to RIA-6 was provided. The ventilation air monitor would have  
07 | alerted the control room to high radiation levels. Therefore, safe operation  
08 | and the health and safety of the public were not affected.

09 SYSTEM CODE [ B | A | 11 ] CAUSE CODE [ A | 12 ] CAUSE SUBCODE [ A | 13 ] COMPONENT CODE [ X | X | X | X | X | 14 ] COMP. SUBCODE [ Z | 15 ] VALVE SUBCODE [ Z | 18 ]  
17 LEA/RD REPORT NUMBER [ 7 | 9 ] EVENT YEAR [ 7 | 9 ] SEQUENTIAL REPORT NO. [ 0 | 3 | 5 ] OCCURRENCE CODE [ 0 | 3 ] REPORT TYPE [ L ] REVISION NO. [ 0 ]  
18 ACTION TAKEN [ H ] 19 FUTURE ACTION [ B ] 20 EFFECT ON PLANT [ Z ] 21 SHUTDOWN METHOD [ Z ] 22 HOURS [ 0 | 0 | 0 ] 23 ATTACHMENT SUBMITTED [ Y ] 24 NPRO-4 FORM SUB. [ N ] 25 PRIME COMP. SUPPLIER [ Z ] 26 COMPONENT MANUFACTURER [ Z | 9 | 9 | 9 ]

CAUSE DESCRIPTION AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS (27)

10 | During the verification of initial conditions for refueling prior to commenc-  
11 | ing refueling operations, the inoperability of RIA-6 mistakenly failed to be  
12 | noted. The responsible personnel have been counseled regarding the incident,  
13 | and steps have been taken to assure repair of the monitor.

15 FACILITY STATUS [ H ] 16 % POWER [ 0 | 0 | 0 ] 17 OTHER STATUS [ NA ] 18 METHOD OF DISCOVERY [ B ] 19 DISCOVERY DESCRIPTION [ Routine verification of conditions ]

16 ACTIVITY CONTENT [ Z ] 17 RELEASED OF RELEASE [ NA ] 18 AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY [ NA ] 19 LOCATION OF RELEASE [ NA ]

17 PERSONNEL EXPOSURES NUMBER [ 0 | 0 | 0 ] 18 TYPE [ Z ] 19 DESCRIPTION [ NA ]

18 PERSONNEL INJURIES NUMBER [ 0 | 0 | 0 ] 19 DESCRIPTION [ NA ]

19 LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO FACILITY TYPE [ Z ] 20 DESCRIPTION [ NA ]

20 PUBLICITY ISSUED DESCRIPTION [ N ] 21 NRC USE ONLY [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

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