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 FACIL: 50-269 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Duke Power Co. 05000269
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SUBJECT: LER 80-002/03L-0: on 800110, during testing, high pressure svc water pump B declared inoperable when motor insulation broke down. Caused by moisture in conduits containing motor cables. Conduits drained & cleaned.

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Duke Power Company
Oconee Nuclear Station

Report Number: RO-269/80-2

Report Date: February 8, 1980

Occurrence Date: January 10, 1980

Facility: Oconee Nuclear Station, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: High Pressure Service Water Pump
Declared Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Unit 1 Refueling Shutdown
Unit 2 99% Full Power
Unit 3 100% Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

On January 10, 1980, high pressure service water (HPSW) pump B was removed from service for its biannual motor insulation test. At 1415 on January 10, at approximately 4000 volts, the insulation broke down. The problem was determined to be in the cables to the pump motor, and new cables were installed. The pump was declared operable at 0455 on January 17, 1980.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

Water was discovered in the conduit from which the old cable was removed, and moisture is considered to have caused the degradation of the cable, possibly in conjunction with a flaw in the cable jacket.

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. HPSW pump B was returned to service within the seven-day period permitted by Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.17.2.1. However, the inoperability of the pump 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 leads were disconnected, and the problem was determined to be in the cables to the motor. The cables were replaced. The conduit was drained and cleaned, and the ends of the new cables were sealed with epoxy to prevent moisture from entering. The new cables were then satisfactorily tested at 7000 volts prior to declaring the pump operable.

