

*Paik*

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

February 13, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-80-24

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date

FACILITY: Duke Power Company  
Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3  
Docket No. 50-269, 50270 and 50-287  
Seneca, South Carolina

SUBJECT: USE OF IMPROPER STEAM GENERATOR MANWAY GASKETS

During hydrostatic testing of the Unit 1 Reactor Coolant System (RCS) following refueling, the licensee discovered leakage of approximately sixty drops per minute from one of the manway gaskets on steam generator "A". RCS pressure was 500 psi at the time. Investigation revealed that a flexatallic gasket with a pressure rating of 900 psi had been installed instead of the required 2500 psi rating. Further investigation revealed that improper gaskets had also been installed on all steam generator manways in Units 1 and 3 and on the upper narways in Unit 2. The licensee suspects that the wrong gaskets have been in use since 1978 when they received a shipment of new gaskets from Babcock-Wilcox although, there has not been any evidence of leakage in the past. The licensee is pursuing the cause of the supply problem as well as the predicted failure mode of the gaskets with Babcock-Wilcox and Flexatallic companies. They are also evaluating the effect on Units 2 and 3, which are both operating at this time.

Media interest has not occurred. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release at this time. The State of South Carolina has been notified.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Resident Inspector at 10:00 on February 13.

Contact: D. R. Quick, RII 242-5553; R. Martin, RII 242-5533

|   |                                |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Distribution:</u>                      | Transmitted H. St. <u>4:23</u> |                                |
| Chairman Ahearne                          | Commissioner Hendrie           | S. J. Chilk, SECY              |
| Commissioner Bradford                     | Commissioner Kennedy           | C. C. Kammerer, CA             |
| Commissioner Gilinsky                     | ACRS                           | (For Distribution)             |
| <u>Transmitted:</u> MNEB <u>4:26</u>      | Phillips <u>4:33</u>           | XOOS <u>4:20</u> (IE:HQ Dist.) |
| W. J. Dircks, EDO                         | H. R. Denton, NRR              |                                |
| C. Michelson, AEOB                        | R. C. DeYoung, NRR             |                                |
| J. J. Fouchard, PA                        | R. J. Mattson, NRR             | Landow _____ (6 min./page)     |
| K. M. Haller, MPA                         | D. Vassallo, NRR               | J. J. Cummings, OIA            |
| R. G. Ryan, OSP                           | D. Eisenhut, NRR               |                                |
| H. K. Shapar, ELD                         | Willste <u>4:29</u>            | <u>MAIL</u>                    |
|   | J. G. Davis, NISS              | R. Minogue, SD                 |
| <u>Other Regional Offices</u> <u>4:51</u> | S. Levine, RES                 | XOOS                           |
| (Time)                                    |                                |                                |

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

8003170179

*Handwritten signature/initials*