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AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Duke Power Co.
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SUBJECT: LER 80-037/03L-0: on 801216, CBAST pump delivered no flow while personnel were attempting sample test & was declared inoperable, probably caused by low oil level in hydraulic reservoir & clogged pressure gauge line.

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NOTES: M Cunningham: all amends to FSAR & changes to Tech Specs.
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DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

Report Number: RO-269/80-37

Report Date: January 15, 1981

Occurrence Date: December 16, 1980

Facility: Oconee Unit 1, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Concentrated Boric Acid Storage Tank Pump Declared
Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100% FP

Description of Occurrence:

At 1500 hours on December 16, 1980, the Unit 1 concentrated Boric Acid Storage Tank (CBAST) was declared inoperable when personnel got no flow from the CBAST pump while attempting to take a sample. This constitutes operation in a degraded mode per Technical Specification 3.2.2 and is thus reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2).

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The apparent cause of the occurrence was that the hydraulic reservoir was low of oil, and the pressure gauge line was clogged.

Analysis of Occurrence:

During the maintenance and testing period, the BWST was available, thus insuring that a source of concentrated boric acid was available. The pump was also returned to service well within the time permitted by Technical Specification 3.2.2. Thus, this incident was of no significance with respect to safe operation, and the health and safety of the public were not affected.

Corrective Action:

Approximately one-half gallon of oil was added to the two gallon reservoir. The pump was primed. After starting the pump, the discharge pressure was still zero. Investigation revealed that the line going to the pressure gauge was clogged. The line was cleaned and the pump restarted. The pump was verified operable.

The failure of the DBAST pumps have been a recurring problem at Oconee Nuclear Station. A Station Modification has been submitted requesting that the current Lapp pumps be replaced with a centrifugal type pump.

