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 FACIL: 50-270 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Duke Power Co.
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 RECIP. NAME: REGION 2, Atlanta, Office of the Director

DOCKET #
05000270

SUBJECT: LER 78-005/03L-0 on 790401: during normal operation observed that narrow-range pressure indications differed by more than 0.6 psig. Caused by pressure transmitter being of calibration due to amplifier drift.

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DUKE POWER COMPANY

OCONEE UNIT 2

Report Number: RO-270/78-5

Report Date: May 1, 1978

Occurrence Date: April 1, 1978

Facility: Oconee Unit 2, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Reactor Building Narrow Range Pressure
Transmitter Out-of-Calibration

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100 % Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

On April 1, 1978, it was determined that the difference between Reactor Building Narrow Range Pressure indications was greater than 0.6 psig, indicating that a malfunction existed within one of the three channels. During investigation it was determined that ES Analog Channel 2 RB Pressure Transmitter had drifted high. Since this occurrence had happened previously (see my letter of March 17, 1977 which transmitted Reportable Occurrence Report RO-270/77-3), the transmitter's amplifier was replaced. On April 4, 1978, a review of the data taken on the instrument string settings prior to replacement of the amplifier indicated that the channel would have tripped at 4.096 psig which exceeds the Oconee Technical Specification limit of ≤ 4 psig given in Section 3.5.3 (ESF Actuation Setpoints).

Cause of Occurrence:

The amplifier, 2PT5P, on ES Analog Channel 2 Reactor Building Narrow Range Pressure transmitter drifted out-of-calibration. No cause for the amplifier drift has been determined.

Analysis of Occurrence:

The reactor building pressure is monitored by three redundant pressure indicating channels which provide inputs to the Engineered Safeguards (ES) system. This incident resulted in one of these three channels being set to trip at a less conservative pressure than allowed by Technical Specifications. The error, however, was of a small magnitude and the other two redundant channels remained operable. Since the trip logic is two-out-of-three the error in one channel would not have prevented the ESF from performing its function. It is therefore, considered that this incident did not adversely affect public health and safety.

Corrective Action:

The faulty amplifier was replaced and its replacement was properly calibrated.