



DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

422 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28242

WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT  
STEAM PRODUCTION

July 13, 1979

TELEPHONE: AREA 704  
373-4083

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Oconee Unit 2  
Docket No. 50-270

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report R0-270/79-4. This report is being submitted pursuant to Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specifications 6.2 and 6.6.2.1.b(2), which concerns shutdown required by a limiting condition for operation, and describes an incident which is considered to have no significance with respect to its effect on the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,

*William O. Parker, Jr.*  
William O. Parker, Jr. *By [Signature]*

SRL/sch

Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Management Information  
and Program Control



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DUKE POWER COMPANY  
Oconee Unit 2

Report Number: RO-270/79-4

Report Date: July 13, 1979

Occurrence Date: June 15, 1979

Facility: Oconee Unit 2, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Unidentified RCS Leakage in Excess  
of 1 GPM

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100% Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

At 1210 on June 15, 1979, unidentified Reactor Coolant System (RCS) leakage of approximately 3 gpm was indicated by increases in the Reactor Building (RB) sump temperature and in the levels recorded by the RB particulate and iodine monitors. At 1530 the Reactor Building was entered, and the probable source of the leakage was determined to be valve 2RC-2, the pressurizer spray control bypass valve. An evaluation of the leakage was made, and it was determined that operation of the unit should be permitted to continue. Unit shutdown was initiated at 2400 on June 15 in order to allow reentry of the Reactor Building for further evaluation. On June 16, 1979, the source was verified to be packing leakage from valve 2RC-2. The valve was backseated, terminating the leakage, and the unit was subsequently restarted.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The RCS leakage was determined to be the result of packing leakoff from valve 2RC-2, the pressurizer spray control bypass valve.

Analysis of Occurrence:

Since the source of the RCS leakage could not be conclusively determined during power operation, actions were taken pursuant to Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.1.6.2, which requires that the unit be shut down within 24 hours of detection. Immediate action is required to assure that the leak is not the result of a slight materials failure which might develop into a more serious situation. The source of the leakage was identified to be the packing on valve 2RC-2. The 3 gpm leak rate was significantly less than the capacity for makeup flow, and the leaking coolant was completely contained within the Reactor Building. In addition, operation of the unit is permitted with a leak rate of up to 10 gpm, provided that the source of the leakage has been identified. However, the leakage did result in shutdown of the unit required by a limiting condition for operation. The incident 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 of the unit, and the health and safety of the public were not affected.

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Corrective Action:

After a preliminary determination was made that the RCS leakage was due to a packing leak, the unit was shut down, and the source was identified to be the packing on valve 2RC-2. The valve was backseated, terminating the leakage. Consideration will be given to repacking or replacing the valve at the next available outage.

