

CATEGORY 1

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 CARROLL, R. Region 2 (Post 820201)
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SUBJECT: PNO-II-97-026B: on 970505, degraded HPI second update made. NRC will make press release regarding decision for AIT. State of SC notified.

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May 6, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-97-026B

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region II staff in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

Duke Power Co.
Oconee 3
Seneca, South Carolina
Dockets: 50-287

Licensee Emergency Classification

X Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
Not Applicable

Subject: DEGRADED HIGH PRESSURE INJECTION PUMPS - UPDATE

This is the second update to the May 3, 1997, Oconee Unit 3 High Pressure Injection (HPI) system degradation during plant cooldown.

On May 5, 1997, at 7:46 p.m., the Notification Of Unusual Event was terminated. Unit 3 is currently in cold shutdown, with preparations underway to drain the reactor coolant system to mid-loop in order to perform HPI nozzle inspections (see PNO-II-97-23B). Prior to commencing mid-loop operations on Unit 3, the licensee plans to complete the weld crack repairs associated with the 2A1 HPI nozzle and be out of mid-loop operations on Unit 2.

An NRC Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) was established on May 5, 1997, to inspect and assess the degradation of the Oconee Unit 3 HPI system. In addition, resolution of the HPI nozzle cracking concern and Unit 3 HPI system degradation were confirmed with the licensee (in a Confirmation of Action Letter dated May 5, 1997) as issues to be addressed during a Management Meeting with the NRC prior to obtaining the Regional Administrator's concurrence for restart of Units 2 and 3.

The NRC will make a press release regarding the decision for an AIT.

The state of South Carolina has been notified.

This information is current as of 10:00 a.m., on May 6, 1997.

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