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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
101 MARIETTA ST., N.W., SUITE 3100
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

NOV 16 1979

In Reply Refer To:

RIL:JPO


50-395

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company
Attn: M. C. Johnson, Vice President
Special Services and Purchasing
Post Office Box 764
Columbia, South Carolina 29218

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will distribute this Notice to their operating personnel and will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. However, we anticipate that further NRC evaluations will result in issuance of an IE Circular, Bulletin or NRC Generic Letter in the near future which will recommend or request specific applicant or licensee actions. If you have questions regarding the matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,


James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice
No. 79-29
2. List of IE Information Notices
Issued in the Last Six Months

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South Carolina Electric
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cc w/encl:

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 16, 1979

IE Information Notice No. 79-29

LOSS OF NONSAFETY-RELATED REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM INSTRUMENTATION DURING
OPERATION

This notice contains information regarding a loss of reactor coolant system instrumentation as a consequence of a failure of a static transfer switch to transfer to an alternate supply.

At 3:15 p.m. on November 10 with Unit 3 of the Oconee Station at 100 percent power, the main condensate pumps tripped, apparently as a result of a technician performing maintenance on the hotwell level control system. This led to reduced feedwater flow to the steam generators, which resulted in a high reactor coolant system (RCS) pressure reactor trip and simultaneous turbine trip at 3:16:57 p.m. At 3:17:15 p.m., the inverter power supply, nonsafety-related, feeding all power to the integrated control system (ICS) tripped and failed to automatically transfer its loads from the DC power source to the regulated AC power source. The inverter had tripped due to blown fuses, resulting in loss of RCS indicators and recorders in the control room, except one wide range RCS pressure recorder.

This condition existed for approximately three minutes, until an operator could reach the equipment room and switch the inverter manually to the regulated AC source. As a result of the power failure to the ICS, all valves controlled by the system assumed their respective fail positions. This resulted in a cool down of the RCS to 1635 psi and 530 degrees F. The operator, expecting this condition, started all makeup pumps and opened the associated high pressure injection valves to the RCS which limited the rate of RCS pressure reduction and associated reduction in pressurizer level. At 3:20:40 p.m., power was restored to the ICS and RCS conditions were restored.

Although RCS cooldown limits were exceeded, the pressurizer and steam generators did not go dry, and at least 79 degrees F subcooling was maintained during this event. No engineered safety features actuation setpoints were reached, and, except for the components discussed above, no component malfunctions occurred.

The licensee has installed a redundant element between the loads and the regulated supply power the loads from the regulated supply fail to transfer.

Longer term resolution of the need or desire to connect onto diverse electrical supplies or to provide display channels for operator use from essential

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