

August 27, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-369

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: Duke Power Company
Oconee, Unit Nos. 1, 2 and 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270 and 50-287
Seneca, South Carolina

POOR ORIGINAL

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE IN CAROLINAS AND GEORGIA

At 9:32 p.m. on August 25, an earthquake of 3.5 magnitude on the Richter Scale occurred in areas of North and South Carolina and Georgia. The earth tremor was felt by the operators in the control room at the Oconee Nuclear Station near Seneca, South Carolina. Units 1 and 2 were at 100 percent and 85 percent power, respectively. Unit 3 was in cold shutdown. There were no alarms indicated in the control rooms. The station initiated their Earthquake Emergency Procedure which requires an inspection of the facilities. There was no damage or effects observed. As required by facility procedures, the licensee is analyzing the facility seismic sensing equipment magnetic tape. The regional office contacted facilities in North and South Carolina and Georgia to determine if other facilities had felt the earthquake in their areas. These facilities include H. B. Robinson near Hartsville, South Carolina; Hatch station near Baxley, Georgia; and Brunswick station near Southport, North Carolina. None of these facilities reported any seismic activity at their sites.

No news release has been made by the licensee; however, the licensee has responded to local media interest. The NRC does not plan to issue a news release. The State of South Carolina has been notified.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Oconee Resident Inspector at 7:45 a.m. on August 27. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. on August 27.

Contact: J. Stone, IE x28019; F. Nolan, IE x28019; S. Bryan, IE x28019

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