

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

September 4, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-389

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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 No. 1
Docket No. 50-269
Seneca, South Carolina

SUBJECT: REACTOR VESSEL HEAD GASKET LEAK

A reactor head gasket leak of about 0.2 gallons per minute was detected while performing a routine reactor coolant operational hydrostatic test on September 3, 1979. The plant was being restarted following a one-week shutdown for valve maintenance and repairs (PNO-372). The licensee is considering the merits of advancing the refueling outage which is currently scheduled for October. Media interest is not expected. Licensee plans to issue a news release today. The NRC does not plan a news release. The State of South Carolina has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 9:17 a.m. on September 4, 1979.

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