

DUKE POWER COMPANY  
OCONEE UNIT 3

Report No.: AO-287/74-5

Report Date: November 7, 1974

Occurrence Date: October 24, 1974

Facility: Oconee Unit 3, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Core flood tank discharge  
Valve breaker not locked open

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Operating at 40 percent full power

Description of Occurrence:

Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.3.3 requires that the core flood tank discharge valves be open and the electrical breakers for these valves be locked open and tagged when Reactor Coolant System pressure is above 800 psi. On October 24, 1974, the Oconee Unit 3 core flood discharge valve, 3CF-1, electrical breaker was discovered open and tagged, with the padlock in place but not locked. The lock was immediately relocked and this was reported to the Shift Supervisor.

Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The core flood discharge valve electrical breaker was opened and locked open on October 16, 1974 during startup of Oconee Unit 3. The padlock was verified locked by the utility operator and so noted in the startup procedure. Apparently, the padlock had not been fully locked and fell open at a later time.

Analysis of Occurrence:

During the period that the motor operator breaker for core flood discharge valve 3CF-1 was not locked, both 3CF-1 and 3CF-2 were open and tagged open and both core flood tanks were operational as required by the Technical Specifications. The presence of the padlock on the motor operator breaker, even though it was not locked, prevented the breaker from being remotely operated. In addition, there are two independent position detectors on these valves to keep the control room operator informed of their position in the unlikely event that someone would remove the lock and manually close the breaker. The health and safety of the public was not affected.

Corrective Action:

All operations personnel have been informed of this incident and of the necessity to recheck the padlocks after locking.

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