

DUKE POWER COMPANY  
OCONEE UNIT 2

Report No.: RO-270/76-8

Report Date: August 9, 1976

Occurrence Date: July 23, 1976

Facility: Oconee Unit 2, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Simultaneous loss of 2A Reactor Building cooling unit and 2A Reactor Building spray train due to tripped load center breaker

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100 percent full power

Description of Occurrence:

On July 23, 1976 following a startup of the 2A Reactor Building Unit (RBCU), the RBCU discharge dampers failed to open resulting in an overload and subsequent trip of the 2XS1 motor control center feeder breaker. This load center supplies power to one train of ES equipment which was disabled when the breaker tripped. Valve 2BS-1 was included in this equipment, and therefore, one of the two redundant Reactor Building spray trains was disabled at the same time 2A RBCU was out of service. This condition existed for approximately 21 minutes until motor control center 2XS1 was returned to service.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

This occurrence resulted from mechanical binding of electrical contacts in the 2A RBCU motor starter. This malfunction prevented the discharge dampers from opening during startup of the cooling unit and also prevented the unit from tripping due to the resulting overload condition. Consequently, the 2XS1 supply breaker overloaded and tripped, disabling one train of ES equipment.

Analysis of Occurrence:

This occurrence resulted in the loss of one train of Reactor Building spray and one Reactor Building cooling unit, and additional ES equipment receiving power via motor control center 2XS1, for a period of approximately 21 minutes until the motor control center could be returned to service. During this period, redundant ES equipment was operable. It is, therefore, felt that due to the operability of redundant ES trains and the brief interval over which this incident occurred, that there was little reduction in any safety margins. It is thus concluded that this occurrence did not adversely affect the health and safety of the public.

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Corrective Action:

A preventive maintenance procedure is presently being written to assure that RBCU motor starters are periodically cleaned and lubricated. This action should prevent further occurrences resulting from mechanical binding of motor starter contacts.