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October 14, 1982

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-269

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Reportable Occurrence Report RO-269/82-14. This report is submitted pursuant to Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2) which concerns operation in a degraded mode permitted by a limiting condition for operation, and describes an incident which is considered to be of no significance with respect to its effect on the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Tucker /BD

Hal B. Tucker

JCP:scs
Attachment

cc: Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

INPO Records Center
Suite 1500
1100 Circle 75 Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Mr. W. T. Orders
NRC Resident Inspector
Oconee Nuclear Station

Mr. P. C. Wagner
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION

Report Number: RO-269/82-14

Report Date: October 14, 1982

Occurrence Date: September 14, 1982

Facility: Oconee Unit 1, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence:

Unit 1 Reactor Building cooling unit fan 1A was declared inoperable when it tripped out on low speed thermal overloads.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100% Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

On September 14, 1982 at 2120 hours, Unit 1 Reactor Building Cooling Unit (RBCU) fan 1A was declared inoperable when it tripped out on low speed thermal overloads. Previously, RCBU fan 1A had tripped out on low speed thermal overload August 16th and 23rd. September 10th, it tripped again, at the time the smoke detector alarm located above the fan, and vibration alarm, went off. That day the inboard and outboard bearings were greased. Each time a trip occurred, the thermal overloads were reset. September 11th, the RCBU fan 1A was shut off so the motor could be inspected. No cause for the trips was found. September 12th, 13th, 14th, and 20th the RCBU fan 1A tripped out on low speed thermal overload and each time was reset. Ever since the reset on September 20th, the fan has been running without a trip. There has been no further problems with high vibration or any smoke alarms since the bearings were greased. New overloads were put in the motor starter on September 27, 1982 to see if the old overloads were bad, but nothing has been found out due to this change.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The cause of the repeated trips is unknown. At present, the fan is running at about 10 amps above its normal low speed running current.

Analysis of Occurrence:

The problems with the RBCU fan 1A did not jeopardize any equipment or systems in Unit 1. Since there are no overloads in the Engineered Safeguards (E.S.) circuitry for this fan, it would have performed its E.S. function. Also, the other two fans and the Reactor Building Spray systems were operable as required by Technical Specifications 3.3.5. If fan 1A had not been operable and if the worst design basis LOCA had occurred, the Reactor Building design pressure would not have been exceeded. Therefore, the health and safety of the public was not endangered.

Corrective Action:

In each case the immediate corrective action was to check bearing temperature, to check the breaker and thermal overloads. After resetting of the overloads, the fan was restarted and a check was made of the running current. Although the current had been higher than usual, it had not been above the rated range of the overloads.

Unit 1 Operating Engineering would like the fan motor to be replaced next refueling outage. Station personnel is keeping a check on the fan and may request that the fan motor be changed if no other reason can be found to cause the trips.