

November 18, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-127

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Duke Power Company  
Oconee Unit 3  
Docket No. 50-287  
Seneca, South Carolina

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
 Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 48 HOURS

The licensee began a planned shutdown of Oconee Unit 3 from 50 percent power at 8:16 p.m. on November 17 to repair a leaking tube in steam generator 3A. The leak rate was 0.45-gallon per minute, which is below the technical specification limit of one gallon per minute.

Duke Power has been monitoring leakage in this steam generator since October 9 (PNO-II-82-108, dated October 12). During a 12-day outage which began on October 10 to identify and correct tube leakage, a degraded tube was identified and plugged, but the licensee could not verify that it was the leaker. Before that shutdown, leakage had increased from 0.02 to 0.04-gallon per minute.

Since operations resumed on October 22, the unit has been operated under controlled conditions imposed by the licensee. Leakage was again identified and has increased gradually. No abnormal releases of radioactivity have occurred, either inside containment or to the environment.

The current outage is expected to last 10 days. Routine maintenance will also be performed. Oconee Units 1 and 2 are operating at full power.

Media interest has occurred, since the licensee has issued a news release. The NRC does not plan a news release.

The State of South Carolina has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) was informed of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 9 a.m. today.

Contact: A. Ignatonis, RII 242-5588

J. C. Broyant, RII 242-5537

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