

DUKE POWER COMPANY

POWER BUILDING

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WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

February 19, 1981

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373-4083

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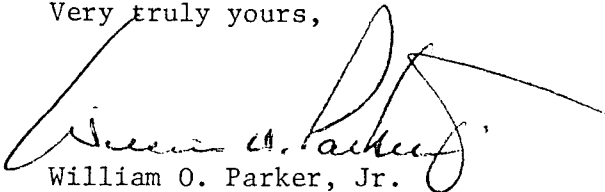
Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-269

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Please find attached Revision 1 of Reportable Occurrence Report RO-269/80-34, "Failure of Level Indication for the Elevated Water Storage Tank", originally submitted December 23, 1980. This report is being resubmitted in order to correct the "Corrective Actions" section of the initial report. 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,



William O. Parker, Jr.

JLJ:pw
Attachment

cc: Director
Office of Management & Program Analysis
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION

Report Number: RO-269/80-34

Report Date: February 19, 1981

Occurrence Date: November 24, 1980

Facility: Oconee Nuclear Station, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Failure of Level Indication for the
Elevated Water Storage Tank

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: Oconee 1 - 100%
Oconee 2 - Cold Shutdown
Oconee 3 - 99%

Description of Occurrence: At 2257 hours on November 24, 1980, the level indication was lost on the Station Elevated Water Storage Tank (EWST). The indication was restored at approximately 0430 on November 25, 1980. An inspection of the instrumentation revealed that the instrumentation failed due to the collection of water in the receiver of the air compressor located on the microwave tower which provides instrument air for the EWST instrumentation. This constitutes operation in a degraded mode per Technical Specification 3.17.2.1 and is thus reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2).

Apparent Cause of Occurrence: This incident was caused by water collecting in the air compressor located on the microwave tower which provides instrument air for the EWST instrumentation.

Analysis of Occurrence: Although the FSAR does not take credit for the EWST, the level instrumentation effects the starting of the HPSW pumps. When the level indication is lost for the EWST the HPSW pumps start because the instrumentation having failed is saying that the EWST is empty. During the time of the inoperability, both normal HPSW pumps and the HPSW Jockey Pump were operable, thus assuring safe operation of the plant but requiring manual start of the pumps if needed. In addition, the level in the EWST was monitored every 2 hours. Thus, this incident was of no significance with respect to safe operation, and the health and safety of the public were not affected.

Corrected Action: The immediate corrective action was to place the HPSW pumps in manual mode and establish an alternate means of indicating water level in the EWST utilizing the Heise gauge on the Operating Floor of the Turbine Building. Since this gauge is not in the Control Room, the pressure had to be logged every 2 hours verifying the level in the EWST. The normal instrumentation was checked, and the air receiver was drained. A temporary arrangement has been made to check the air receiver weekly for accumulated water. Administrative controls will be maintained to insure that the liquid is drained from this system. The reasoning behind the current "bubbles" level instrumentation vs direct indication will be determined. A periodic blowdown of this receiver will be set up.