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 FACIL: 50-269 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Duke Power Co.
 50-270 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Duke Power Co.
 50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co.

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SUBJECT: RO on 790926-29. Auxiliary electrical power sys degraded beyond limiting conditions for operation. Caused by trip of Lee turbine generator. Procedures are being revised.

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WILLIAM O. PARKER, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
STEAM PRODUCTION

October 1, 1979

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. R. W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactor Branch No. 4

Re: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287

Dear Mr. Denton:

Pursuant to Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.7.8, this letter is submitted describing an incident which involved degradation of the auxiliary electrical power systems beyond that permitted by the limiting conditions for operation.

On September 22, 1979 both Keowee hydro units were removed from service in order to permit scheduled repair of the turbine blades to be made. In accordance with Technical Specification 3.7.6, the 4160 volt standby buses were energized by a Lee Steam Station gas turbine prior to removing the Keowee units from service. The Keowee units were returned to service at 0438 on September 25, 1979, but were again removed from service at 0922 due to wicket gate leakage. At 0627 on September 26, 1979 Lee turbine-generator 6C tripped for no apparent reason, de-energizing the Oconee standby buses. Lee turbine-generator 4C was started by 0653, re-energizing the standby buses. Turbine-generator 6C was restarted and brought on line, and generator 4C was disconnected but left running. At 0845, Lee generator 6C again tripped, and operating personnel initiated shutdown of Oconee 1 and 2 from 95% and 98% full power, respectively. Oconee 3 was at cold shutdown. At 0930 the standby buses were re-energized by the Lee turbine-generator 4C, and the Oconee units began increasing in power. Lee generator 6C was again brought on line, but tripped for a third time at 1443 on September 26. Shutdown of the two Oconee units was again initiated, but power was again increased when Lee turbine-generator 5C was brought on line at 1501. Turbine-generator 6C was returned to service at 1630 on September 26. Keowee Unit 1 was returned to service at 2145 on September 27, 1979. The unit was again removed from service at 1040 on September 28 for further maintenance, after a Lee gas turbine was started. The Lee turbine tripped without apparent cause at 0859 on September 29 and was brought back on line ten minutes later. Both Keowee units were returned to service by 1209 on September 29, 1979.

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
October 1, 1979
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Initial investigation of the incident failed to reveal any reason for the tripping of the Lee unit. Review of the incident is still underway. Oconee operating procedures have been revised to require initiation of unit shutdown in the event the Keowee hydro units are out of service and the Lee turbine is lost. The procedures previously permitted up to an hour to reestablish back-up power from Lee before initiating a shutdown.

During the period the Keowee units were out of service, offsite AC power was available from at least two separate transmission lines through separate towers. In addition, a back-up unit was available at Lee Steam Station when the operating unit tripped. Finally, if emergency power had been required, Keowee Unit 1 could have been returned to service within one hour. Therefore, this incident did not affect safe operation of the Oconee units or the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,

William O. Parker Jr. by W A H
William O. Parker, Jr.

SRL:scs

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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