

REGULATORY INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (RIDS)

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 FACIL: 50-287 Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Duke Power Co. 05000287
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 Region 2, Atlanta, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: LER 80-005/03L-0: on 800302, borated water storage tank level
 Channel 1 failed high when bellows froze. Caused by removal
 of transmitter box cover. Transmitter thawed & calibr
 checked.

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DUKE POWER COMPANY
OCONEE UNIT 3

Report Number: RO-287/80-5

Report Date: March 31, 1980

Occurrence Date: March 2, 1980

Facility: Oconee 3, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: One BWST Level Channel Inoperable

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100% Full Power

Description of Occurrence:

At 1937 on March 2, 1980 operations personnel noted that borated water storage tank (BWST) level channel 1 had failed high. An investigation of the failure revealed that the box cover for the level channel 1 transmitter had been removed and that the transmitter bellows had frozen. Earlier that day, during the performance of the Cold Weather Checklist, the transmitter box cover had been noted to be in place. The box cover was replaced, and by 2130 on March 2, 1980 the transmitter had thawed and the level channel 1 reading matched that of channel 2. At 1400 on March 3, 1980 the transmitter was declared operable following a calibration check.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The level channel failed high when the level transmitter bellows froze. The transmitter box heaters were found to be operating properly, but the box cover had been removed. The box cover had been noted to be in place earlier in the day, and no reason for its removal could be determined.

Analysis of Occurrence:

During the time that level channel 1 was inoperable, redundant channel 2 was operable and capable of providing necessary information on BWST level. Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.3.5 permits one train of BWST level indication to be inoperable for up to 24 hours, and channel 1 was returned to service within that period. However, since this incident constituted operation in a degraded mode permitted by a limiting condition for operation, it must be reported pursuant to Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(2), although it was of no significance with respect to safe operation, and the health and safety of the public were not affected.

Corrective Action:

The immediate corrective action was to replace the transmitter box cover. The transmitter bellows thawed, and the readings of the two level channels were observed to agree. However, due to the cold weather, a calibration check could not be made until the following day, although still well within the 24 hour period.

A low temperature alarm will be installed in each Control Room to alert operations personnel to possible problems in maintaining the BWST level transmitter at operating temperatures. In addition, a step will be added to the Cold Weather Checklist to verify that the transmitter box covers are in place.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT

EXHIBIT A

CONTROL BLOCK:		(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION)																							
01		SICNEE 3200-0000-0003411114										5													
7		LICENSEE CODE 14										LICENSE NUMBER 25										LICENSE TYPE 30		CAT 58	
CONT		01		REPORT SOURCE L605000287703028080331809										9											
7		8		DOCKET NUMBER 68										EVENT DATE 74										REPORT DATE 80	
EVENT DESCRIPTION AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES 10																									
02		BWST level channel 1 failed high when the level transmitter bellows froze.																							
03		The level channel was declared operable well within the 24 hour period allow-																							
04		ed by Technical Specification 3.3.5. In addition, redundant level channel																							
05		2 was operable and capable of providing necessary information on BWST level.																							
06		Therefore, this incident is considered to be of no significance with respect																							
07		to safe operation, and the health and safety of the public were not																							
08		affected.																							
7		8																							
09		SYSTEM CODE PC11										CAUSE CODE E12		CAUSE SUBCODE E13		COMPONENT CODE INSTRU14				COMP. SUBCODE T15		VALVE SUBCODE Z16			
7		8		9										11		12		13				15		16	
17		LER/RO REPORT NUMBER		EVENT YEAR 80		SEQUENTIA REPORT NO. 005		OCCURRENCE CODE 03		REPORT TYPE L		REVISION NO. 0													
7		8		21		22		24		25		27		29		31		32							
ACTION TAKEN		FUTURE ACTION		EFFECT ON PLANT		SHUTDOWN METHOD		HOURS 0000		ATTACHMENT SUBMITTED Y		NPRO-4 FORM SUB. Y		PRIME COMP. SUPPLIER L		COMPONENT MANUFACTURER B040									
7		8		18		19		20		21		22		23		24		25							
CAUSE DESCRIPTION AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS 27																									
10		The level transmitter bellows froze because the transmitter box cover had																							
11		been removed. No reason for the cover to be removed could be determined.																							
12		The cover was replaced, and the transmitter thawed. It was declared operable																							
13		following a calibration check. A low temperature alarm for the transmitters																							
14		box will be installed. The box cover will be checked as part of the Weather																							
7		8																							
15		FACILITY STATUS E28										% POWER 10029		OTHER STATUS NA30		METHOD OF DISCOVERY A31		DISCOVERY DESCRIPTION Operator Observation32							
7		8		9										12		13		15		16					
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20		PUBLICITY		ISSUED Z44		DESCRIPTION NA45																			
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