

DUKE POWER COMPANY

P.O. BOX 33189  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28242

HAL B. TUCKER  
VICE PRESIDENT  
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

February 18, 1983

TELEPHONE  
(704) 373-4531

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-269/83-03. This report is submitted pursuant to Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specification 6.6.2.1.b(1) which concerns engineered safety featured instrument settings found to be less conservative than those established by Technical Specifications but that do not prevent the fulfillment of the functional requirements of the affected system, 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*  
Hal B. Tucker

JCP/php  
Attachment

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

Mr. J. C. Bryant  
NRC Resident Inspector  
Oconee Nuclear Station

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

Mr. E. L. Conner, Jr.  
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-269/83-03

Report Date: February 18, 1983

Occurrence Date: January 20, 1983

Facility: Oconee Unit 1, Seneca, South Carolina

Identification of Occurrence: Engineering Safeguards Reactor Building Pressure Transmitter found out of calibration

Conditions Prior to Occurrence: 100% Full Power

Description of Occurrence: On January 20, 1983 it was observed that the computer indications for the Unit 1 Engineering Safeguards (ES) Channels A, B, and C Reactor Building narrow range pressure transmitter (RBNRPT) had drifted out of calibration but had not exceeded the station procedure check limit. The channels were then calibrated to correct the drift. Per a review of the as found data contained in the ES System Reactor Building Narrow Range Pressure Calibration and Analog Channel Tests, it was determined that the Unit 1 ES Channel A RBNRPT had drifted out of calibration and had been non-conservative with respect to Technical Specification 3.5.3.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence: The cause of this incident was a deficiency in procedures. The present procedures require a check of the computer indications every 8 hours. Calibration is to be requested if any two indications disagree by more than 0.4 psig. All readings observed on January 20, 1983 did not disagree by more than 0.4 psig. Not until the test data were analyzed was it realized that the transmitters were non-conservative. It is apparent from this incident that if all three narrow range RB pressure transmitters drift in the same direction, the then present criterion for a calibration check is not adequate.

Analysis of Occurrence: Had a Loss of Coolant Water Accident (LOCA) occurred and had RB pressure significantly increased, ES Channels B and C would have tripped on high RB pressure at less than the Technical Specification required setpoint of 4 psig. The design of the ES system is such that 2 out of 3 channels tripped will cause the appropriate ES functions to occur. Therefore, the ES actions associated with RB pressure of 4 psig would have initiated prior to reaching 4 psig.

ES Channel A would have tripped on high RB pressure at 4.19 psig. Although the Technical Specification required trip setpoint of 4.0 psig was exceeded, a setting of 4.19 psig did not significantly degrade the Unit 1 ES system. Thus, the health and safety of the public were not compromised by this incident.

Corrective Action: The immediate corrective action was to calibrate the ES Channel A RB narrow range pressure transmitter. It is planned to add a criterion to the RB pressure check so that a transmitter calibration check will be called for if one or more narrow range transmitters are indicating -0.6 psig or a more negative number.