

Duke Power Company
Oconee Nuclear Generation Department
P.O. Box 1439
Seneca, SC 29679

J.W. HAMPTON
Vice President
(803)885-3439 Office
(704)373-5222 FAX



DUKE POWER

November 23, 1992

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287
Special Report, Technical Specification 3.7.9

At 12:00 on November 19, 1992, the ability of the as-built configuration of the 2CA, 2CB, 3CA, and 3CB Instrument and Control battery racks to withstand a postulated seismic event could not be confirmed. Accordingly, these batteries were declared inoperable, all three Oconee Units entered Technical Specification (TS) 3.7.9, and the event was reported pursuant to 10 CFR 50.72(b)(1)(ii)(A). The required batteries were restored to operable status at 17:15 on November 19, 1992. TS 3.7.9 requires submittal of a safety evaluation which justifies the safest course of action to be taken in the event of ongoing degradation beyond TS 3.7.2, together with plans for expediting the return to unrestricted operating conditions.

Although the event of concern has already been resolved, the following information provides the basis for the course of action taken. Briefly, the batteries were expected to be restored in a time commensurate with TS 3.0, shutdown of any Oconee Units in response to this event would decrease the margin of safety for the power distribution system, the probability of a seismic event while the batteries racks were undergoing repair was small, it was unlikely that an actual seismic event would result in the loss of all four batteries, and actual battery capacity is significantly greater than assumed in accident analyses.

Very Truly Yours,

J. W. Hampton

xc: L. A. Wiens, Project Manager
ONRR

S. D. Ebner, Regional Administrator
Region II

P. E. Harmon
Senior Resident Inspector

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