NRC Form 366
(9-83)

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-0104
EXPIRES: 8/31/85

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	PAGE (3)
Oconee Nuclear Station	0 5 0 0 0 2 6 9	1 OF 0 3

TITLE (4)
Inoperability of Several Radioactive Effluent Monitors for More Than 30 Days

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAMES	DOCKET NUMBER(S)
									Oconee Nuclear	0 5 0 0 0 2 6 7 0
0 7	1 1	8 5	8 5	0 0 9	0 0	0 8	1 2	8 5	Oconee Nuclear	0 5 0 0 0 2 8 7

OPERATING MODE (9)		THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more of the following) (11)			
		20.402(b)	20.405(c)	50.73(a)(2)(iv)	73.71(b)
POWER LEVEL (10)		20.405(a)(1)(i)	50.36(c)(1)	50.73(a)(2)(v)	73.71(c)
		20.405(a)(1)(ii)	50.36(c)(2)	50.73(a)(2)(vii)	OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)
		20.405(a)(1)(iii)	X 50.73(a)(2)(i)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)	
		20.405(a)(1)(iv)	50.73(a)(2)(ii)	50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)	
		20.405(a)(1)(v)	50.73(a)(2)(iii)	50.73(a)(2)(x)	

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER
	AREA CODE
Sandra G. Godwin, Licensing	7 0 4 3 7 3 - 1 3 6 2

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS		CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	
E	I L	X E		N							

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)		EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	X NO				

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately fifteen single-space typewritten lines) (16)

On July 11, 1985 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Inspection and Enforcement Group (OIE) determined from their in-plant review of certain station activities that several Radioactive Effluent Monitors (RIA) were inoperable for more than 30 days and not reported to the NRC. This was a violation of Technical Specification (T.S.) 3.5.5. An explanation stating why the inoperable RIAs were not corrected in a timely manner should have been included in the Semiannual Radioactive Effluent Release Report.

This incident is considered to be a Management/Quality Assurance Deficiency. All appropriate actions were taken to assure gaseous and liquid effluents were being maintained within safe limits when the respective RIAs were declared inoperable. Therefore, the health and safety of the public were not endangered by this event.

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

Description of Occurrence:

On July 11, 1985 it was determined by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of Inspection and Enforcement Group, while on-site at Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS), that Technical Specification 3.5.5 had been violated. This violation occurred as a result of ONS failing to report pursuant to the requirements of T.S. 3.5.5, which states in part concerning inoperable RIAs: "Exert best efforts to return the instruments to operable status within 30 days and if unsuccessful, explain in the next Semiannual Radioactive Effluent Release Report why the inoperability was not corrected in a timely manner". Four RIAs were declared inoperable for periods greater than 30 days within the last year.

One RIA, which monitors the Low Pressure Service Water (LPSW) effluent from the Auxiliary Building, was discovered to have a flow problem during the summer of 1984 after an investigation was started to determine the cause for low flow alarms. As a result of this investigation on June 1, 1984, the monitor was declared inoperable because flow from the Reactor Building Cooling Units (RBVU's) to the monitor did not exist. To comply with T.S. 3.5.5, a once per 12 hour sample program was initiated and has continued since. When a similar investigation was done on Units 2 and 3, data indicated two additional monitors needed to be declared inoperable and a sample program initiated to comply with Technical Specifications. There is an ongoing investigation to determine what modifications are necessary to return these three monitors to operable status.

On October 12, 1984, a monitor for Waste Gas effluent, was removed from service for repair work.

Cause of Occurrence:

The cause of this incident is being classified as Management/Quality Assurance Deficiency. Prior to the event, ONS Management did not have a definitive program to ensure that full compensatory actions pursuant to T.S. 3.5.5 were taken. Proper full compensatory actions would have included reporting to the NRC in the semiannual report. This action was apparently overlooked during the Radiological Effluent T.S. Review Process.

Analysis of Occurence:

Several Radioactive Effluent Monitors were removed from service for a period of more than 30 days, which is allowable by Technical Specifications, provided an explanation was submitted with the Semiannual Radioactive Effluent Release Report to the NRC. The explanation should indicate why these RIAs were not corrected in a timely manner. Technical Specification 3.5.5 was violated because a report was not made to the NRC concerning these monitors after having them out of service for more than 30 days. The consequences of this violation are as follows:

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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 366A's) (17)

1) Three of the monitors in violation monitor samples of Low Pressure Service Water (LPSW) for gross gamma in each LPSW effluent header from the Auxiliary Building. These monitors are provided to supplement laboratory analysis and indications from these monitors assure that LPSW effluents are maintained within safe limits. An alternate sample program is established when any one of the monitors are removed from service to monitor LPSW on a routine basis. The alternate sample program also assures that LPSW effluents are maintained within safe limits and is in accord with ONS Techncial Specifications.

2) The fourth monitor in question, monitors waste gas effluent from Oconee 1 and 2. One instrument channel using a plastic beta scintillation detector and one instrument channel using a Geiger-Mueller (G-M) tube provide the dynamic range which covers normal and abnormal operating conditions with overlap. Interlocks from these monitors automatically terminate release at preset levels. When this RIA becomes inoperable an alternate method (which includes two independent samples and data entry checks) of sampling is conducted to assure waste gas effluents are maintained within safe limits and is in accord with ONS Technical Specifications.

When this event occurred all the appropriate actions were taken to assure gaseous and liquid effluents were being maintained within safe limits. Therefore the health and safety of the public were not affected or threatened by this incident.

Corrective Action:

There were no immediate actions applicable in this event. The supplemental actions taken were to investigate why the monitors were not being repaired in a timely manner, to determine who would be temporarily responsible for inoperable RIA notifications until a permanent program could be established, and to form a task force to resolve the existing RIA related problems. In addition, a program will be established to assure that radiation monitors which are declared inoperable and/or removed from service because they need repair will receive proper attention. This program will also see to it that RIAs are reliably and expeditiously returned to service.

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August 12, 1985

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

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269, -270, -287
LER 269/85-09

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73 Sections (a) (1) and (d), attached is Licensee Event Report 269/85-09 concerning the inoperability of several Radioactive Effluent Monitors for more than thirty days. This report is submitted in accordance with §50.73(a)(2)(i)(B). This event was considered to be of no significance with respect to the health and safety of the public.

Very truly yours,

H.B. Tucker /BS

Hal B. Tucker

SGG:slb

Attachment

cc: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator
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Oconee Nuclear Station

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