Nuke plant completes repairs

Oconee removed from 'unusual event' status after blown fuse fixed

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SENECA — Oconee Nuclear Station no longer is in "unusual event" status following repairs to indicators in the Unit 3 control room at the plant on Lake Keowee.

Sandra Magee, a spokeswoman at the Duke Energy facility, said Thursday that Oconee "exited the unusual event classification at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday."

Magee said repairs were made after it was determined that a blown fuse caused the loss of indicators in the Unit 3 control room earlier Wednesday.

The incident put the plant in a low-level emergency status.

The unit was stable at the time of the incident, and there was no danger to workers or the public, according to Joey Ledford, spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which monitored the situation from its response center in Atlanta.

The fuse blew during planned maintenance activities at 12:07 p.m. Wednesday, while Unit 3 was operating at full power, impacting some indicators that provide status on plant equipment, Magee said.

She said other monitoring methods were available that allowed the unit to continue to operate at full power.

Magee said the NRC, state and local officials were notified when the repairs were completed.

Ledford said the NRC will determine over the next few days whether any action, such as added inspection, is needed.