



An Oconee Nuclear Station reactor was shut down after "an unusual event" early Saturday morning, according to a Duke Energy official. No one was injured. FILE

## Duke official: Incident 'does not impact public safety'

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
AND LAUREN PIERCE  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A Duke Energy official said a nuclear reactor at Oconee Nuclear Station was still shut down Monday afternoon, days after "an unusual event."

Spokeswoman Mikayla Kreuzberger told The Journal in an email workers were going through plans to restart the unit after there was an "issue with pumps." She added there was no fire after operators received fire detection indications from a different area within the unit.

Operators declared the unusual event at 3:57 a.m. Saturday, Kreuzberger said an unusual event is the lowest of four nuclear emergency classifications and "does not impact public safety." Oconee County Emergency

Services emergency management director Scott Krein initially said Saturday crews responded to an "onsite fire brigade" around 4 a.m. The Keowee Fire Department was the first fire unit to make it to the station, Krein said Monday, and Duke Energy was still investigating the incident.

### FEDERAL AGENCY COMMENTS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman Dave Gasperson said Monday afternoon Duke Energy notified the federal agency about the event "as required."

"Our senior resident inspector at the plant responded immediately upon notification and observed the control room operators' actions during the event," he said in an email. "There was

**'Our senior resident inspector at the plant responded immediately upon notification and observed the control room operators' actions during the event. There was no risk to the public, and the plant's safety system worked as designed.'**

**Dave Gasperson**  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman