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January 9, 1979

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC DOCKETS 50-321, 50-366
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2
CONTAINMENT PURGING DURING NORMAL PLANT OPERATION

Gentlemen:

In response to your letter dated November 29, 1978, Georgia Power Company provides the following information. A review is presently underway which we expect will justify unlimited purging during normal plant operation. This study will be completed by April 16, 1979, and the results provided to the Commission. The study will include evaluation of the impact of purging during operation on ECCS performance, and evaluation of the radiological consequences of any design base accident requiring containment isolation which occurs during purge operations, and an evaluation of containment purge and isolation instrumentation and control circuit design.

During the period of time during which the study is being performed and during the subsequent review by the Commission, Plant Hatch Unit 2 will continue to have a Technical Specification requirement which limits purging to less than 1% of the time. Unit 1 is not expected to require any unusual amounts of purging during this period of time; however, if Unit 1 should require an unusual amount of purging, the Commission will be notified.

Yours very truly,

Chas. F. Whitmer

RDB/mb

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