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Georgia Power

the southern electric system

November 18, 1981

J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Vice President and General Manager
Nuclear Generation

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

NRC DOCKETS 50-321, 50-366
OPERATING LICENSES DPR-57, NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2
INSERVICE INSPECTION OF ASME CATEGORY B-K-1
WELDED SUPPORTS - RELIEF REQUEST

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of the 1974 edition of ASME Section XI, Category B-K-1 welded supports require a volumetric examination. These particular supports on Hatch Units 1 and 2 have historically been difficult to examine volumetrically (UT) due to geometrical configuration.

The 1977 edition of ASME Section XI with addenda through Summer 1979 which has been approved by NRC requires only a surface examination for these supports. In addition, the 1980 edition of Section XI which may be approved in the near future requires only a surface examination.

The upcoming refueling outages originally scheduled for January 1982 (Unit 2) and April 1982 (Unit 1) are the last major outages which are to be covered by the 1974 edition of the code. As a result of the core reconstitution outage discussed in our letter dated October 7, 1981, the Unit 1 refueling outage will not begin until September 1982. A mandatory update to the 1977 edition (1980 if approved) is required by 10 CFR 50.55a by January 5, 1983 for both units. Unit 1 would normally update by August 30, 1982. However, we have requested by letter dated November 10, 1981 an extension of the current inservice examination period to allow completion of all remaining second forty-month period examinations during the refueling outage now scheduled for September 1982. If approval is granted for the extension, Unit 1 would update its program for the third forty-month period of commercial operation on January 5, 1983 which coincides with the program update for Unit 2. After that date, a surface examination will be the only examination required for Units 1 and 2 B-K-1 supports.

Surface examination methods provide a high degree of reliability in detecting flaws in welded supports. Since a surface examination of B-K-1 supports will be required in the future, Georgia Power Company plans to perform surface examinations in lieu of volumetric examinations for those category B-K-1 supports scheduled for examination during the upcoming outages.

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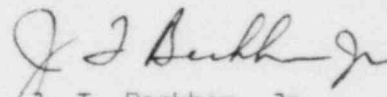
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Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
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Page Two

Your concurrence with this course of action is requested. Due to the impending need to make the necessary arrangements for performing the examinations during the upcoming outages, please advise us if you have any objections to the course of action discussed herein.

If you have any questions in this regard, please contact this office.

Sincerely yours,


J. T. Beckham, Jr.

JAE/mb

xc: M. Manry
R. F. Rogers, III
Director - NRC Region II