

Georgia Power Company
333 Piedmont Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone 404 526-7020

Mailing Address
Post Office Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

April 27, 1982

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

Georgia Power

the southern electric system

Director 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
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, REACTOR
COOLANT SYSTEM VENTS NUREG-0737 ITEM II.B.1

Gentlemen:

Georgia Power Company submits the following information in response to your request for information dated February 26, 1982. The Plant Hatch architect-engineer has identified the systems required for core cooling, and has reviewed the piping configuration of those systems to determine if accumulation of noncondensable gas would cause the loss of system function.

In addition to the reactor coolant system, systems which may be required to maintain adequate core cooling are High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI), and Residual Heat Removal (RHR) which includes Low Pressure Coolant Injection (LPCI) and Core Spray.

The piping configuration of the HPCI, LPCI and Core Spray systems was reviewed to assure that there is no credible possibility of loss of system function from gas accumulation at high points. Positive pressure is maintained on the HPCI system by the water in the condensate storage tank, or by water in the suppression pool, depending on system alignment. Suction piping on the LPCI and Core Spray system is at positive pressure due to water level in the suppression pool. Once the piping is filled and vented following any maintenance or operation which requires it to be drained, there is no credible mechanism by which noncondensable gas can enter the suction piping and collect at high points.

Discharge piping of these systems was not reviewed because the HPCI system is below the level of the condensate storage tank which maintains it under positive pressure; LPCI and Core Spray discharge piping is maintained under positive pressure by jockey pumps. Small amounts of gas present will be flushed through system piping into the reactor vessel when the system is started and will collect at the top of the vessel. If needed, a plant operator can remotely open a safety/relief valve and vent the gas to the suppression chamber.

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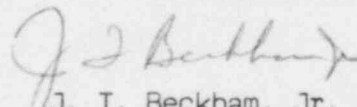
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We conclude that additional venting capability is not required to assure continued safe operation at Plant Hatch. Existing venting capability satisfies the requirements of NUREG-0737, Item II.B.1. Please contact this office if you have any questions or comments.

Yours very truly,


J. T. Beckham, Jr.

PLS/mb

xc: H. C. Nix
R. F. Rogers, III
J. P. O'Reilly (NRC-Region II)