

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

Mailing Address
Post Office Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

April 30, 1982



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 TESTING OF RHR LPCI CHECK VALVES



Gentlemen:

Currently the inservice testing of Residual Heat Removal (RHR) System Low Pressure Coolant Injection (LPCI) testable check valves 1(2)E11-F050 A&B is performed by use of a "test switch" which utilizes an air operated actuator to partially lift the valve disk off its seat and magnetic limit switches to verify valve disk movement. The inservice testing frequency of the subject valves is every cold shutdown.

In lieu of inservice testing using the "test switch", inservice testing by means of verifying shutdown cooling flow through the valve during cold shutdown is a viable alternative. Since the shutdown cooling mode of RHR would be in service during cold shutdown, cooling flow rate demonstrates substantially free flow through the valve as required by Article IWV-3520 (b) of the 1974 edition of ASME Section XI with addenda through Summer 1975.

The Inservice Inspection/Testing Programs currently on file with NRC state that the subject valves are stroked with the "test switch" each cold shutdown. Please be advised that Georgia Power desires to deviate from this method and now intends to perform the necessary testing by documenting the flow rate each cold shutdown. Testing in the manner described above provides greater assurance that the check valve is performing its intended function as the valve will open to a greater extent than when using the "test switch."

If you have any objections to the course of action discussed herein, please contact this office.

Sincerely yours,

J. T. Beckham, Jr.

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xc: H. C. Nix, Jr.
R. F. Rogers, III

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PDR ADOCK 05000321
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