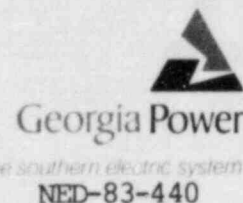


Georgia Power Company
333 Piedmont Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone 404 526-6526

Mailing Address
Post Office Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Power Generation Department



August 31, 1983

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
Division of Licensing
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
NUREG-0737 ITEM II.E.4.2(7) CONTAINMENT PURGE
AND VENT VALVE HIGH RADIATION ISOLATION

Gentlemen:

The BWR Owners Group submitted a generic evaluation of the subject item by T. J. Dente's letter of June 29, 1981. The Owners Group position, which was endorsed by Georgia Power Company (GPC) was that automatic isolation of containment purge and vent valves on high containment radiation was not necessary for Mark I and II plants. The basis for this conclusion was that: (1) the purge and vent valves are normally closed, (2) there are existing separate, diverse signals for automatic closure of these valves, (3) various signals would alert operators to manually close these valves, and (4) the radiological consequences of a break which would not automatically isolate the purge and vent valves are acceptably low. Additional information supporting this position was provided by the Owners Group in a November 19, 1981, meeting and by T. J. Dente's letter of June 14, 1982.

Your letter of July 29, 1981, transmitted to GPC two NRC staff Safety Evaluations in which it was concluded that the Owners Group position was not acceptable. The staff considers a high radiation isolation signal necessary to reduce the reliance on operator action and on indirect parameters such as high drywell pressure and low reactor water level for timely isolation of purge and vent valves.

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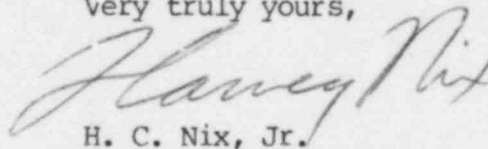
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Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
August 31, 1983
Page Two

While GPC shares the staff's desire to prevent an excessive release of radioactivity through purge and vent valves during accident conditions, we maintain that the present containment isolation design at Plant Hatch adequately serves this purpose. We consider the addition of a high radiation signal for purge and vent valve isolation an unnecessary conservatism. However, we are willing to make this modification to the Hatch units in the interest of resolving Item II.E.4.2(7). GPC will submit a description of the intended modification by November 1, 1983. Installation will take place during the first refueling outage following completion of design and parts procurement. We estimate that this will be accomplished for Unit 1 by the end of the refueling outage following Cycle 7, currently scheduled for 1985, and for Unit 2 by the end of the refueling outage following Cycle 5, currently scheduled for 1985. Because this modification represents an increase in the conservatism of the containment isolation design rather than correction of a deficiency, GPC considers no interim compensatory measures necessary and plans no action in this regard.

Please contact this office if there are any questions.

Very truly yours,



H. C. Nix, Jr.
General Manager

JH/mb

xc: J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Senior Resident Inspector
J. P. O'Reilly (NRC-Region II)