

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of  
Georgia Power Company,  
et al.,

(Vogtle Electric  
Generating Plant,  
Units 1 and 2)

DOCKET NO. 50-424-OLA  
50-425-OLA

ASLEP NO. 90-617-03-OLA

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM F. KITCHENS  
IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANTS' RESPONSE TO  
THE BOARD'S MEMORANDUM AND ORDER OF JANUARY 22, 1991

I, William F. ("Skip") Kitchens, having first been duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by the Georgia Power Company as the Assistant General Manager - Plant Operations, at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant ("VEGP"), located near Augusta, Georgia. In my position, which I have held since March, 1989, I report directly to the General Manager of the VEGP. The Assistant General Manager - Plant Operations is responsible for several Departments at the Plant: Chemistry, Health Physics, Outage and Planning, Maintenance, and Operations.

2. In 1974 I graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Engineering Science degree. In 1975 I earned a Master of Engineering degree at the

University of Virginia, where I concentrated in Nuclear Engineering. While earning this advanced degree, I worked as an Assistant Engineer for the Virginia Electric Power Company, where I was assigned to Licensing and Engineering Sections as part of the University's co-op student program.

3. I have been employed for over 15 years in the nuclear industry. My first permanent position was as a Field Engineer at Florida Power and Light's St. Lucie Plant, located in Ft. Pierce, Florida. During the period I held that position, from January, 1976 until January, 1978, I provided engineering support for the construction, start-up and initial operation of the two units. I prepared safety evaluations of Design Changes and dispositioned non-compliance and field reports. In early 1978, after Unit 1 of St. Lucie went into commercial operation, I was promoted to Plant Engineer, providing technical support for the early operation of the unit. In February, 1979, I assumed a Plant Engineer's position at Georgia Power Company's Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, located near Baxley, Georgia. At Plant Hatch I was responsible for the technical support of the liquid and solid radwaste systems. In the Summer of 1979 I transferred to Georgia Power's Vogtle Project where, as a Senior Plant Engineer from July, 1979 until April, 1981, I performed design reviews of systems and components, coordinated the

Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) and Environmental Report (ER) completion and reviews, developed plans for the In-service Inspection Program for the VEGP, and generally assisted upper management in the planning for eventual VEGP operations, including personnel recruitment and training. From April, 1981 until September, 1986 I held several successive positions at the VEGP, including Plant Engineering Supervisor, Operations Superintendent and Manager of Operations. In this latter position, from September, 1986 through March, 1989, I had the day-to-day responsibility for operations of both VEGP units (Unit 2 was commencing licensed operation). I was certified as an Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) instructor in August, 1983 and obtained my SRO license for Unit 1 in September, 1986.

As the Operations Manager I was the senior member of the plant management required to maintain an active SRO license and was responsible for that Department's compliance with regulatory requirements, including Technical Specifications, and operations procedures. As a result of my past and on-going experience at the VEGP, I am familiar with the procedures applied by the Operations Department and the manner in which procedures are viewed as a matter of management policy.

4. This Licensing Board, in its January 22, 1991 Memorandum and Order, asked "[i]s the obligation to dispatch an operator to the diesel (generator) in the event of an automatic diesel start mandatory or permissive?" The Board then referenced a Design Change Package (DCP) developed to support a change in trip logic of the diesel generators. The answer to the Board's question is "mandatory." The dispatch of operators to the diesel generators is a function of plant procedures, not controlled by design change analysis. In other words, day-to-day operations of the plant are controlled by plant procedures, including procedures of the Operations Department, as complemented by the training provided to plant employees. Training and management emphasize procedural compliance: procedures are to be used and followed.

5. The specific answer, then, to the Licensing Board's question is found in VEGP Procedure No. 17035-1, last page, which mandates dispatch of a qualified operator (e.g., licensed operator or qualified plant equipment operator) to verify the diesel generator is operating properly upon an Emergency Start of the diesel generator. This dispatch is part of the trained response of all licensed operators; dispatch of an operator to the diesel generator upon an emergency start is an ingrained response. In other words,

the plant procedure, coupled with the extensive training of licensed operators, provides high assurance that adequately trained operators will be dispatched upon emergency start of a diesel generator as part of a routine response to the emergency start condition.

The foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

William F. Kitchens

William F. Kitchens

Sworn to and subscribed  
before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day  
of March, 1991.

Patricia C. Clark  
Notary Public

PATRICIA C. CLARK, Notary Public  
JENKINS COUNTY, GEORGIA  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 12-31-93