

Synopsis

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For nuclear employees in the Southern electric system

Emergency plan activated after power failure at Plant Vogtle

Investigations continue into the incidents that led to a declaration of a site area emergency at Plant Vogtle on March 20. The emergency was declared at 9:40 a.m. EST because of a loss of on- and off-site power to Unit 1 for about 36 minutes. Power was restored to essential equipment in the plant, and the situation was downgraded to an alert status at 10:15 a.m. The emergency was canceled at 1:47 p.m., according to Ken McCoy, vice president of the Vogtle Project.

There was no release of radiation nor any danger to the public. All non-essential personnel were assembled and accounted for following notification of the emergency.

A site area emergency is declared whenever both on- and off-site power are lost for more than 15 minutes. That condition was met after a truck delivering fuel to a portable welding machine backed into a switchyard pole, breaking an insulator, causing a cable short circuit, which knocked out a transformer supplying electricity to the unit.

McCoy said that Unit 1 was already shut down for normal refueling operations, which were about 50 percent complete. During such shutdowns, other equipment can also be taken out of service for maintenance. Under normal circumstances, a second transformer would supply needed power, but it was out of service to have its oil replaced.

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Addison visits Inverness Building 40

Ed Addison, president of The Southern Company, prepares to address SONOPCO Project managers and supervisors during a recent visit to Birmingham.

Exhibit II, page 1 of 4

Nuclear energy's environmental benefits

Growing awareness that nuclear energy generates electricity without affecting the atmosphere is prompting renewed interest in its contribution to America's environmental goals.

According to the U.S. Council on Energy Awareness (USCEA), nuclear energy yields environmental benefits that include:

- In 1989, nuclear generated electricity offset utility emissions of carbon dioxide by 26 percent.

Nuclear energy plants offset total U.S. emissions of sulfur dioxide

by 9 percent worldwide; nuclear energy offset these emissions by more than 7 percent.

- America's 113 nuclear power units already offset U.S. emissions of sulfur oxides by 5 million tons a year.

- Nuclear generated electricity now offsets U.S. emissions of nitrogen oxides by 2 million tons a year.

France's success story

France's decision, following the 1974 oil embargo, to start a large-scale nuclear program is

now paying major environmental dividends. Nuclear energy now generates more than 70 percent of that country's electricity.

USCEA reports that France's nuclear plants have virtually eliminated utility emissions of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide; reduced particulate emissions of utilities by almost 98 percent; and cut overall utility

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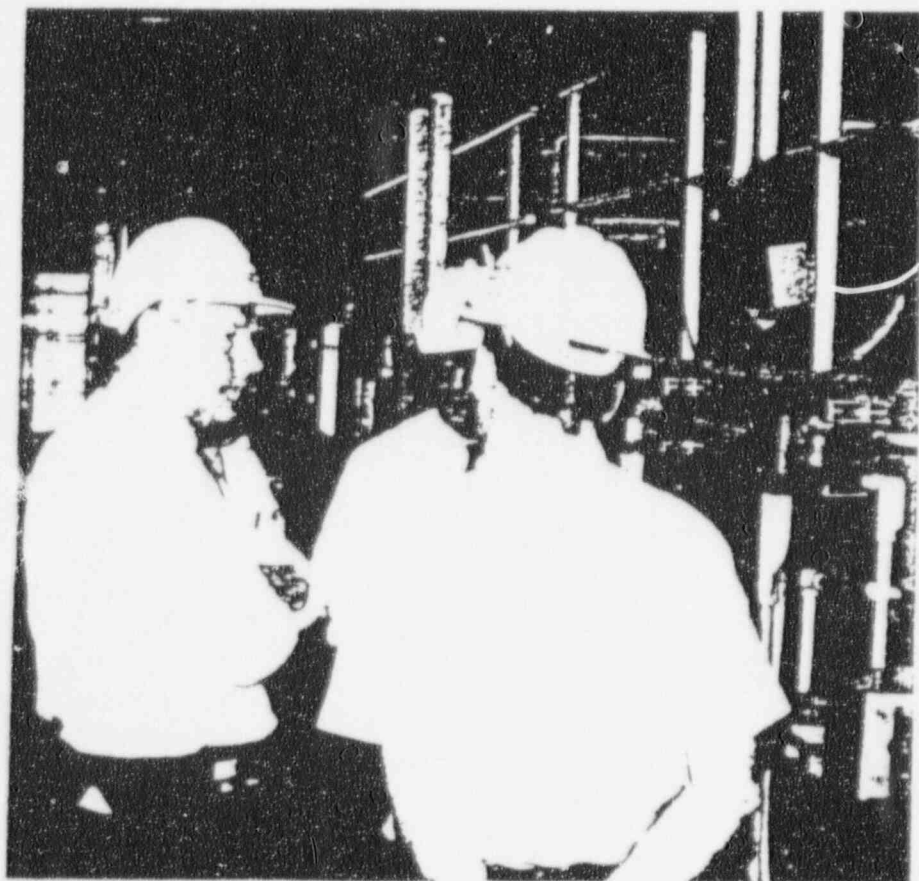
Hatch outage continues despite job action

Outage work on Hatch Unit 1 — begun Feb. 17 — continues uninterrupted, despite a job action by contract employees of Applied Radiological Controls (ARC).

Most of the health physics technicians, hired by ARC to assist with the outage work, failed to report to work on March 26. Their job action is part of an attempt by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to affiliate health physics technicians across the country.

By early this week, some of the health physics technicians who had participated in the job action had returned to work, according to Tom Beckham, vice president of the Hatch Project.

Pickets near the plant gate have been limited to four, in accordance with a temporary restraining order obtained by Georgia Power last week. Support for the job action — among plant contract employees who belong to various craft unions — had all but ended earlier this week after craft union business managers reportedly indicated support for the outage work in progress and asked their members to return to work.



Visitors tour Plant Farley

(From left) Ed Allison, American Nuclear Energy Council (ANEC) consultant on high-level nuclear waste issues, and Ed Davis, president of ANEC, hear from Charlie Nesbitt, technical manager at Plant Farley, about the plant's Radioactive Waste Processing Building. Allison and Davis toured the plant in March. Photo by Wes Morgan.

Power loss causes alert at Plant Vogtle

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One of two diesel generators that are normally available to supply back-up electricity to the unit was out of service for maintenance. The second one started briefly and then automatically shut down. Plant operators were unable to restart it from the control room and had to start it locally.

McCoy explained that the concern when power is lost is heat build-up in the reactor. With Unit 1 out of service, the temperature of the cooling water in the reactor was about 100 degrees F at the beginning of the emergency and had increased to only 118 degrees F by the time the site emergency ended. He said that it could have taken several hours for the water in the reactor vessel to reach the boiling point. Had boiling begun in the reactor, steam could have been vented into containment.

There was sufficient make-up water in a gravity feed tank nearby to keep the reactor cooled to a safe level for an indefinite period of time. That tank has manual valves that can be operated to start the water flow to the reactor in this condition.

Another concern was the length of time it took to complete the notifications required by emergency operating procedures. Specifically, some state and county officials were not notified of the problem for up to an hour because the automatic phone systems didn't work and emergency had to be notified one at a time.

The delay was caused in part by a loss of electrical power to the Emergency Notification Network.

McCoy said, "We will thoroughly review our equipment and procedures for emergency notification to ensure we can meet our

responsibility for timely notifications in the future," he added.

Unit 2, which was operating at normal power, was automatically shut down because of power fluctuations in the switchyard. It did not, however, experience a loss of power. Unit 2 was restarted within 48 hours following the trip.

Unit 1's refueling outage, originally scheduled to be completed on April 9, will probably be delayed several days by this event and the subsequent investigations.

NRC upgrades investigation, holds news conference

An NRC inspection team on site at Plant Vogtle is looking into three areas in regard to the emergency—the loss of on- and off-site power, the potential loss of cooling and the Emergency Notification Network.

The extent of the investigation was announced at a news conference at the plant on March 26.

"Our mission is simply to determine the facts and make them available to the industry so the NRC can use them to determine what changes might be necessary when shut-down opera-

tions occur," Al Chaffee, NRC deputy director, told reporters.

Georgia Power is cooperating fully with the investigation, while also conducting its own probe. The company has agreed not to restart Unit 1 without the NRC's approval.

As to when the investigation would conclude, Chaffee said, "I hope that the outside criteria will be completed by the end of this week, but that might change."

The NRC upgraded its investigation into the incident on March 25 to a "high-level inquiry into basic operational procedures" that could affect plants nationwide. The team reportedly will investigate the incident and review NRC regulations that allow one of two emergency generators and one of two transformers at each nuclear reactor to be out of service during refueling. The regulations apply to all 113 operating nuclear units in the United States.

The 10-person team is composed of seven NRC employees and three industry representatives.

Vogtle construction program receives industry award

The Business Roundtable, an organization of leaders from top U.S. corporations, has recognized Georgia Power's construction program at Plant Vogtle for excellence in construction industry safety.

Georgia Power received the award for its entry in the roundtable's annual Construction Industry Safety Excellence Awards Program, which is

designed to improve construction industry safety performance.

The Vogtle construction program was also recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for safety excellence. The plant was chosen for OSHA's STAR program, which exempted the project from routine OSHA inspections.

Committed to environmental principles

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emissions to between one-sixth and one-tenth of their 1980 levels.

Southern Company's environmental principles

The Southern Company Management Council has adopted a formal statement of environ-

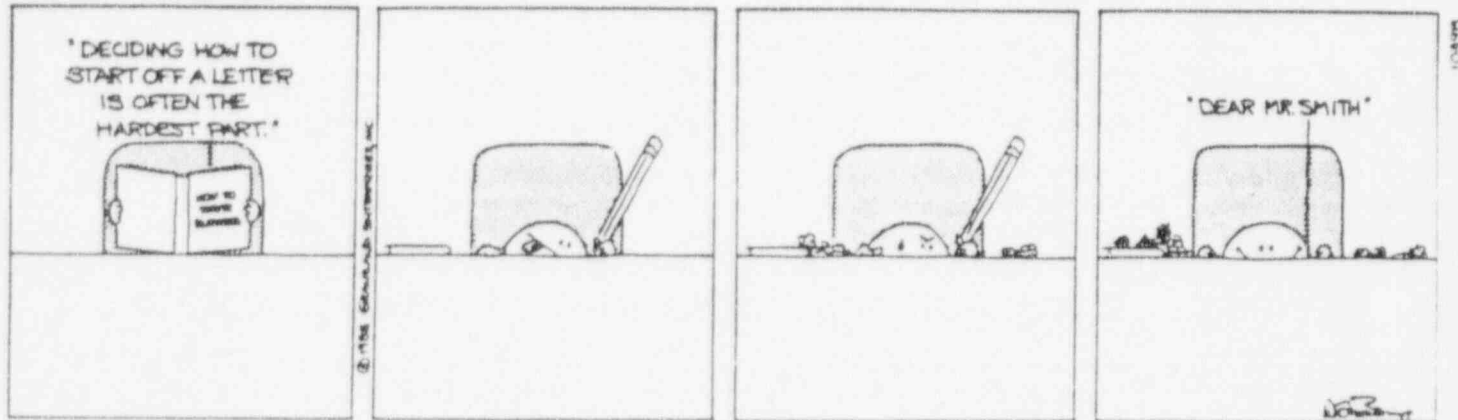
mental principles, which will be officially approved at the April meeting of The Southern Company's board of directors.

"Throughout The Southern Company, we view environmental responsibility as a commitment that each of us has a duty to

uphold," said Southern Company President Ed Addison. "We've adopted a set of environmental principles to reinforce that long-standing commitment."

A copy of the statement has been distributed to all Southern Company employees.

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