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The Southern Electric System

NED-83-369

November 28, 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  
REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE  
ALLOWING PLANT OPERATION WITHOUT FORCED RECIRCULATION FLOW

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.90 as required by 10 CFR 50.59(c)(1), Georgia Power Company (GPC) hereby proposes an amendment to the Edwin I. Hatch Units 1 and 2 Technical Specifications (Appendix A to each Operating License). This proposed change would allow plant operations for up to 30 continuous minutes without forced recirculation flow.

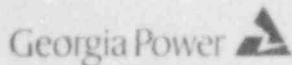
Present Technical Specification requirements for both units at Plant Hatch do not allow continuation of power operations should the use of both recirculation loops be lost. However, GPC has determined that there are no safety concerns associated with operation of the plant for up to 30 minutes without forced recirculation flow. In many instances where both recirculation pumps have tripped, it is possible to recover the use of at least one of these pumps within a short time period. Therefore, this requested change has the potential to prevent unnecessary shutdowns of the plant.

General Electric Company (GE) analyzed the potential impacts of this change at Plant Hatch and summarized their findings in NEDO-30059, Class I, February 1983, "Power Operation of the Hatch 1 and 2 Reactors Without Forced Recirculation." Their analysis considered the effects of natural circulation operation on the FSAR accident and transient analyses results, operational stability of the Hatch reactors, and the potential for thermal stratification in the reactor vessel at low power levels. GE concluded that there would be no safety concerns associated with power operations of either Hatch reactor without forced recirculation for periods of up to 30 minutes.

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The Plant Review Board and Safety Review Board have reviewed this proposed change and have determined that its implementation would not constitute an unreviewed safety question. The probability of occurrence or the consequences of an accident or malfunction of equipment important to safety would not be increased above those analyzed in the FSAR due to this change as shown by an analysis of natural circulation for up to 30 minutes during power operations which was performed with satisfactory results. The possibility of an accident or malfunction of a different type than analyzed in the FSAR would not result from this change because the proposed mode of operation is addressed by the FSARS for both units at Plant Hatch. The margin of safety as defined in Technical Specifications would not be reduced due to this change because power operations for up to 30 minutes without forced recirculation would not result in any condition which violates current Technical Specification safety limits.

Instructions for incorporation of these changes (Attachments 1 and 2), along with copies of affected Technical Specification pages are enclosed.

Included with this proposal is a determination of amendment class (Attachment 3). We have determined this to be one Class III amendment and one Class I amendment, and have enclosed the appropriate payment.

As required by 10 CFR 50.92, an individual significant hazards analysis is provided for each change to the Technical Specifications (Attachments 4 and 5).

Pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.92, J. L. Ledbetter of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will be sent a copy of this letter and all applicable attachments.

G. F. Head states that he is Vice President of Georgia Power Company and is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Georgia Power Company, and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the facts set forth in this letter are true.

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

By: *G. F. Head*  
G. F. Head

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of November, 1983.

*William F. Burns*  
Notary Public, Georgia, State at Large  
My Commission Expires Aug. 26, 1986

Notary Public

CBS/mb

Enclosure

xc: H. C. Nix, Jr.

Senior Resident Inspector

J. P. O'Reilly, (NRC-Region II)

J. L. Ledbetter