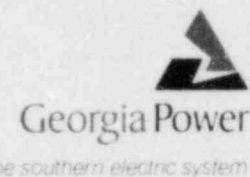


Georgia Power Company
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Telephone 404 526-6526

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

L. T. Gucwa
Manager Nuclear Engineering
and Chief Nuclear Engineer



NED-84-014

January 6, 1984

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 DOCKET 50-366
OPERATING LICENSE NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2
RECIRCULATION PIPING REPLACEMENT

Gentlemen:

On January 5, 1984, Georgia Power Company notified the NRC staff (both NRR and Region II I&E) via separate telephone conversations of recent developments regarding plans to replace the recirculation system piping at Plant Hatch Unit 2. This serves to confirm those discussions.

In past conversations and meetings, we have discussed plans to shutdown Plant Hatch Unit 2 on January 6, 1984 to replace the recirculation system piping. We have now decided to delay that scheduled shutdown for a week and could possibly delay shutdown to an even later date in January. The reasons for the delay are twofold: (1) There is a delay in the fabrication of the piping, and (2) we are pursuing a more rigorous program of pipe testing and examination to assure its quality. In undertaking this more rigorous testing, we are ascertaining that the piping is not only code acceptable, but is, in fact, the best quality piping available.

In conducting intensive examinations of the pipe as it is fabricated, our agents have detected some small linear indications in what appears to be the heat-affected zone of the pipe seam weld. Although these indications do not appear to be significant enough to present a code problem, we feel the quality of this pipe requires their removal and an understanding of their origin. These indications appeared on the outside surface of certain pipe and have been characterized as being each less than 1/16-inch long. We feel that normal fabrication processes (e.g., buffing, grinding) should be utilized to remove the indications.

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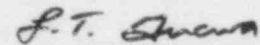
Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
January 6, 1984
Page Two

We are notifying you to (1) make you aware of our schedule delay and (2) to make you aware of these findings.

In a matter unrelated to the recirculation system piping, but affected by an outage schedule delay, we discussed planned modifications to the Scram Discharge system. We stated that should circumstances warrant further postponement of our scheduled outage, we would not operate beyond January 31, 1984, without making modifications to the Scram Discharge system.

If, now or at any time during the period of this project, you would like to discuss this project further, please let us know.

Very truly yours,



L. T. Gucwa

/mb

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