

Georgia Power Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201
Telephone 205 877-7122

C. K. McCoy
Vice President, Nuclear
Vogtle Project

May 10, 1995



LCV-0605

Docket Nos. 50-424
50-425

Tac Nos. M85619
M85620

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn.: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
RESPONSE to REQUEST for ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING GENERIC LETTER 92-08, THERMO-LAG FIRE BARRIERS

Gentlemen:

By letter dated April 19, 1995, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff denied Georgia Power Company's (GPC) request for an extension for responding to the NRC letter of December 30, 1994, that requested additional information regarding the resolution of issues related to Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier material. In the letter of April 19, 1995, the staff indicated its request was for programmatic information concerning our plans and schedules for resolving certain issues; not for detailed or substantive technical information related to the issues. The staff indicated our response should be a best estimate of the information requested and that brief discussions of any assumptions that had to be made could be included.

By letter dated December 30, 1994, the NRC staff requested that GPC provide the following information related to the Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barriers currently installed:

1. The tests and analyses required to verify that the material properties of the Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier materials are representative of materials used to address industry technical issues and to construct ampacity derating test specimens.
2. The methodology to determine the sample size for tests and analysis.
3. The schedule for verifying the material properties.
4. After the requested tests and analyses from the NRC have been obtained and verified, the NRC requests that a written supplemental report be provided.

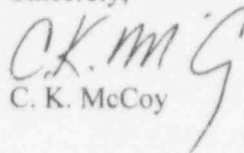
9505180590 950510
PDR ADOCK 050007 24
P PL

A029

In our letter of December 19, 1994, GPC indicated that a program had been developed to reroute circuits, reevaluate safe shutdown equipment requirements, and possibly redefine existing fire areas. Based upon our continued review of this issue and conversations with the NRC staff, we have decided to remove Thermo-Lag 330-1 material from the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP). The enclosure provides our response to the requested information. As indicated in our letter dated December 19, 1994, the required evaluations and modifications to resolve the Thermo-Lag 330-1 issue for VEGP for both Unit 1 and 2 will be completed by startup of Unit 2 from the Spring 1998 refueling outage.

Mr. C. K. McCoy states he is a vice-president of Georgia Power Company and is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Georgia Power Company, and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Sincerely,


C. K. McCoy

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of MAY, 1995.

Mary N. Bentley
Notary Public

My Commission expires: May 6, 1999

CKM/PAH/gb

Enclosure: Response to Request for Additional Information
Regarding Generic Letter 92-08, Thermo-lag Fire Barriers

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. J. B. Beasley Jr.
Mr. M. Sheibani
NORMS

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. S. D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator
Mr. D. S. Hood, Licensing Manager, NRR
Mr. B. R. Bonser, Senior Resident Inspector, Vogtle

ENCLOSURE

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
RESPONSE to REQUEST for ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING GENERIC LETTER 92-08, THERMO-LAG FIRE BARRIERS

Thermo-Lag Materials

1. NRC Requested Information

Describe the specific tests and analyses that will be performed to verify that the Thermo-Lag fire barrier materials that are currently installed at VEGP, or that will be installed in the future, are representative of the materials that were used to address the technical issues associated with Thermo-Lag barriers and to construct the fire endurance and ampacity derating test specimens. The tests and analyses shall address the material properties and attributes that were determined or controlled by TSI during the manufacturing process and the quality assurance program. The tests and analyses shall also address the material properties and attributes that contribute to the conclusions that the Thermo-Lag materials and barriers conform to NRC regulations. These include:

1. Chemical composition
2. Material Thickness
3. Material weight and density
4. The presence of voids, cracks, and delaminations
5. Combustibility
6. Flame spread rating
7. Ampacity derating
8. Mechanical properties such as tensile strength, compressive strength, shear strength, and flexural strength.

GPC RESPONSE

At VEGP, GPC has decided to remove Thermo-Lag 330-1 material, which results in the only technical issue remaining is the potential ampacity-related degradation that may have occurred during the time the Thermo-lag 330-1 material was installed. GPC will resolve this issue by temperature measurements taken in and near conduit and cable tray locations. These measurements will indicate local temperatures, which will be compared to the cable insulation requirements. It is expected that the local temperature measurements will demonstrate that no ampacity-related degradation has occurred. The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) plans to conduct generic ampacity tests. These tests may also be utilized to help resolve the ampacity issue.

2. NRC Requested Information

Describe the methodology that will be used to determine the sample size and demonstrate that the sample size will be large enough to ensure that the information and data obtained will be sufficient to assess the total population of in-plant Thermo-Lag 330-1 barriers and the materials that will be installed in the future. In determining the sample size, consider the time of installation and manufacture of the various implant materials and barrier installations. Give the number and types (e.g., panels, conduit preshapes, trowel-grade material, stress skin) of samples that will be tested or analyzed.

GPC Response

GPC's program to resolve the Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier issue has been revised to remove the material. Sampling to confirm that the installed material is representative of materials used in the industry is only necessary if the NEI ampacity model is utilized in resolving ampacity concerns at VEGP. GPC does intend to send a limited number of samples to the NEI test facility. These samples will be selected to be representative of the Thermo-Lag 330-1 material installed at VEGP.

3.0 NRC Requested Information

Submit the schedule for verifying the Thermo-lag materials.

GPC Response

GPC anticipates that the test results should be available no later than December 15, 1995. This includes time to select appropriate samples, obtain samples and send samples to the NEI test facility, and time for analyses of the samples.

4.0 NRC Requested Information

After the analyses and tests have been completed, submit a written supplemental report that confirms that this effort has been completed and provide the results of the tests and analyses. Describe any changes to previously submitted plans or schedules that result from the tests or analyses.

GPC Response

After completion of the temperature measurement program, GPC will submit a supplemental report providing the results of these measurements. Results from the material tests performed at the NEI test facility should be included in an NEI report summarizing material tests. If NEI does not provide a summary report, and GPC utilizes NEI or other industry data, GPC will submit a material properties report to the NRC that will indicate chemical composition, material thickness, and material weight and density.