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HL-4898

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Additional Information to Support Secondary
Containment Technical Specifications Revision Request

Gentlemen:

Based on teleconferences with the NRC staff on July 13 and 14, 1995, enclosed is additional information which supports NRC review of the secondary containment draw down acceptance criteria Technical Specifications revision request contained in Georgia Power Company's (GPC) letter dated June 6, 1995. The conclusions of the 10 CFR 50.92 evaluation enclosed in that letter remain valid.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

J. T. Beckham, Jr.

SRM/eb

Enclosure: Additional Information to Support Secondary Containment Draw
Down Acceptance Criteria Technical Specifications Revision Request

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr., Nuclear Plant General Manager
NORMS

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C.
Mr. K. Jabbour, Licensing Project Manager - Hatch

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
Mr. S. D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator
Mr. B. L. Holbrook, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch

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Enclosure

Additional Information to Support Secondary Containment Draw Down Acceptance Criteria Technical Specifications Revision Request

During teleconferences on July 13 and 14, 1995, NRC staff requested details with respect to how the Technical Specifications (TS) surveillance associated with drawing down the Secondary Containment to the 0.25 inch vacuum are performed and results of recent tests. This information was requested to provide confidence that the requested 0.20 inch vacuum acceptance criteria adequately addresses wind effects and test measurement error. In addition, the request was made to provide confidence that the phenomenon described in Information Notice (IN) 88-76, "Recent Discovery of a Phenomenon Not Previously Considered in the Design of Secondary Containment Pressure Control," is not an issue at Plant Hatch. The revised acceptance criteria are adequate to address wind effects and test measurement error.

In IN 88-76, the staff reported the discovery of a previously unknown temperature/elevation phenomena affecting secondary containment performance. Under winter conditions, delta-P instruments located at lower elevations will give nonconservative readings for secondary containment and SGT system surveillance tests. This phenomena is a result of the differences in density between air in the secondary containment and outside air.

The secondary containment negative pressure surveillance testing at Plant Hatch is performed on a three-zone multi-configurational basis. (The Unit 1 reactor building is Zone I, the Unit 2 Reactor Building is Zone II, and the common Refueling Floor is Zone III.) Each zone is tested using differential pressure instruments located within the zone(s) being tested. A differential pressure instrument is available at the high-elevation refueling floor level. As stated in Georgia Power Company's June 6, 1995 submittal, the 95% upper bound wind, which results in exfiltration, is 24 mph, corresponding to a 0.12 inch water column negative pressure. The instrumentation used for the surveillance has a 5.0 inch water column instrument span. The combined instrument loop accuracy is ± 0.045 inches water column. Because of these features, the IN 88-76 phenomenon is adequately accounted for by the surveillance tests and, therefore, it is not an issue at Plant Hatch.

Testing with the Unit 2 Standby Gas Treatment (SGT) fans drawing on both areas is a result of satisfying the TS changes which were approved in Amendments 195 and 135. In preparing for implementation of the improved TS changes, several tests were performed, including tests for the three-zone configuration as well as tests for the two-zone configurations. There were no significant pressure differentials between the zones after test conditions stabilized. Initially, some of the tests did not meet the TS criteria of 0.25 inch vacuum in 120 seconds. In general, the two-fan/two-zone combinations did not draw as much vacuum as the three-zone/three-fan combinations. Significant maintenance was performed to repair the door seals to "new status," as well as caulking building joints

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and penetrations. The recent surveillance test results for the most limiting combination of SGT fans for the three zone configuration are as follows:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Vacuum Reading After 30 Minutes</u> <u>(Inches Water Column)</u>
Unit 1 Reactor Building	0.29
Unit 2 Reactor Building	0.32
Refueling Floor	0.28

While these results show vacuum readings in excess of the current 0.25 inch water gauge vacuum, it is anticipated that because of the reduced fan flow that the amount of vacuum drawn will be less for the two-zone/two-fan combinations. Therefore, the revised acceptance criteria are adequate to address wind effects and test measurement error.