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NED-84-336

June 25, 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 DOCKETS 50-321, 50-366
OPERATING LICENSES DPR-57, NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2
CONFIRMATION OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - ARTS

Gentlemen:

During a telephone conference between NRC staff personnel and Georgia Power Company (GPC) on June 19, 1984, the subject of thermal-hydraulic stability was discussed in the context of GPC's proposed Technical Specification changes submitted February 6, 1984. That submittal proposed a revision to the APRM scram and rod-block curves in the Technical Specifications.

Plant operation which would be allowed by the proposed Technical Specifications could in some cases be in a region of the power-flow map described as the Extended Load Line Limit Analysis (ELLLA) region. The trip of one or two recirculation pumps while the plant was operating in the ELLLA region would cause a flow coast-down to a higher power than would occur if the plant were not operating in the ELLLA region.

Because the thermal-hydraulic characteristics of boiling water reactors in that low-flow region are less stable than at flows seen with both recirculation pumps in service, and because of irregularities of flux traces observed during a test on a domestic BWR, the NRC is engaged in discussions with the BWR Owner's Group regarding operation in that region of the power flow map.


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General Electric Company has recommended, via Service Information Letter (SIL) # 380, revision 1, that the readings from the local power range monitors and the average power range monitors be monitored during operation above the 80% rod line and below 45% core flow. GPC has in place for both Units operating procedures which implement the above listed recommendations of the SIL. The SIL also recommends that if a recirculation pump trip event results in operation in the region described above, that power be reduced by inserting control rods to or below the 80% rod line. The operating procedures related to single loop operation will be revised for Unit 2 prior to startup of the unit. As discussed with the NRC, GPC will propose in the near future, amendments to the Unit 1 and 2 Technical Specifications to restrict single loop operation to that region bounded by the 80% rod line.

Very truly yours,



L. T. Gucwa

RDB/mb

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