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Georgia Power

the southern electric system

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

PLANT HATCH - UNIT 1
NRC DOCKET 50-321
OPERATING LICENSE DPR-57
SPECIAL REPORT 1-92-002
FIRE BARRIER ASSEMBLY INOPERABLE FOR LONGER
THAN 14 DAYS RESULTS IN SPECIAL REPORT
AS REQUIRED BY THE FIRE HAZARDS ANALYSIS

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of the Unit 1 Technical Specifications and Fire Hazards Analysis (FHA), Georgia Power Company is submitting the enclosed Special Report concerning a fire barrier assembly which was inoperable for a period greater than 14 days.

Sincerely,

J. T. Beckham, Jr.

JKB/cr

Enclosure

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. H. L. Sumner, General Manager - Nuclear Plant
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. L. D. Wert, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch

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ENCLOSURE

PLANT HATCH - UNIT 1
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A. REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT

This report is required by Unit 1 Technical Specifications section 6.9.2 which states that Special Reports shall be submitted as required by the Fire Hazards Analysis (FHA) and its Appendix B requirements.

The FHA, Appendix B, section 1.1.1, states that fire rated assemblies and sealing devices in fire rated assemblies separating fire areas shall be operable. Action statement 6 of FHA Appendix B, section 1.1.1, allows for the fire rated assembly(ies) or sealing device(s) to be inoperable for up to 14 days. If this time is exceeded, a Special Report is required.

B. UNIT STATUS AT TIME OF EVENT

On 9/22/92, at 1250 CDT, Unit 1 was in the Run mode at a power level of 2435 CMWT (100 percent rated thermal power).

C. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On 9/11/92, at 1250 CDT, a non-license contract employee was performing a functional test to prove operability of penetration 1243-H521C per maintenance work order (MWO) 1-92-4111. At that time, he discovered a cavity approximately 10 inches in length and 1/4 inch wide through the south wall of Station Battery Room 1B above penetration 1243-H521C between the top of the wall and ceiling. This cavity was located in a three-hour, fire rated wall separating fire zones 1005 and 0001. Deficiency Card (DC) 1-92-3829 was written to document the condition and licensed Control Room personnel were notified. Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 1-92-644 was initiated and an hourly fire watch established on one side of the affected area at that time in accordance with FHA Appendix B, Section 1.1.1, Action a.

An investigation could not determine when the cavity originated.

ENCLOSURE (Continued)

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D. CAUSE OF EVENT

The cause of the cavity found in the south wall of the station service battery room 1B is unknown. A review of maintenance history and other related plant documentation was performed and no work was identified which could have resulted in causing this deficiency.

E. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

In this event, a fire barrier assembly was found to be degraded. Upon discovery of this deficiency, an hourly fire watch was established for the affected fire zone in accordance with FHA Appendix B, section 1.1.1, Action a.

The design basis fire in fire area 1005 is classified as a low combustible fire with a fire duration of 34 minutes. The combustible materials associated with this fire area are the plastic battery cases and electrical cabling which produce heavy dense smoke and low heat. The early warning fire alarm system installed throughout the fire area is electrically supervised and provides alarms both locally and in the main control room. In the unlikely event of a fire in zone 1005, the fire detection system will alert the control room to ensure prompt response by the plant fire brigade. There are portable carbon dioxide extinguishers and a hose station located in adjacent fire area 0001 for manual fire fighting.

The adjacent fire area 0001 is equipped with an early warning fire alarm system installed throughout the fire area. This early warning system is also electrically supervised and alarms both locally and in the main control room. The combustible loading for the hall area adjacent to fire area 1005 is also classified as a low combustible fire load. The corresponding fire duration is 1.17 hours. As with fire area 1005, the fire is expected to produce heavy smoke with moderate heat and be quickly detected. Fire area 0001 includes the main hallway adjacent to the 1B battery room and connects the El. 112' east cableway with the control building. In the unlikely event of a fire in zone 0001, it would be promptly detected and responded to by the plant fire brigade.

Based on the above information, it is concluded that this event has no adverse effect on nuclear safety.

ENCLOSURE (Continued)

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F. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The cavity found in the south wall of Station Battery Room 1B was repaired under MWO 1-92-4244. This work was completed on 09/18/92.