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J. D. Woodard
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the southern electric system

September 13, 1996

Docket Nos. 50-424
50-425

LCV-0788-E

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

Gentlemen:

**VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
REVISION TO RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 96-01**

By letter LCV-0788 dated April 4, 1996, Georgia Power Company (GPC) responded to NRC Bulletin 96-01. This response included commitments for testing control rods following the March 3, 1996 refueling outage of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Unit 1 and the September outage of VEGP Unit 2. The testing for Unit 1 was completed and the results were summarized in LCV-0788. The data from the tests was submitted to the NRC by letter LCV-0788-D, dated September 4, 1996. The commitments made for VEGP Unit 2 included rod drop time measurements and drag testing.

On August 22, 1996 the Westinghouse Owner's Group proposed a relaxation of the testing proposed by NRC Bulletin 96-01. In response to this request, the NRC's letter dated September 4, 1996, stated that the staff continued to consider the rod drop time tests to be essential but that if sufficient data is available, the staff would consider relief from the drag test commitment. Georgia Power has successfully conducted end of cycle drop time test for VEGP Unit 2. In accordance with our commitments, all of the control rods inserted well within their Technical Specification limits. The results from these tests are attached along with the results from the rod drop time tests that were conducted at the beginning of the operating cycle.

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Based on our discussions with Westinghouse, the additional data from drag testing is not required for their root cause evaluation. The successful rod drop time tests indicate that the drag testing will exhibit results that are within normal parameters. The Unit 2 fuel is of the same type as was tested during the previous outage on Unit 1. In addition, the burnups and power history of the fuel being discharged with this cycle on Unit 2 have been enveloped by the exposure of the fuel tested at the previous Unit 1 outage. This is shown by the burnup and history of the rodded fuel assemblies from Unit 1 Cycle 6 and Unit 2 Cycle 5 which are also attached to this letter.

The results of the Westinghouse Owner's group investigation indicated that the incomplete rod insertions that have been experienced by other plants have occurred in rodded fuel assemblies during their third cycle. Neither of the VEGP Units have control rods in third cycle fuel, and there are no plans to design cycles with control rods in third cycle fuel. Therefore, the existing data for VEGP is sufficient for demonstrating confidence that the control rods will function properly during the next fuel cycle and the additional data is not required to complete the root cause analysis. Extensive fuel sipping is expected to be required during this refueling outage. The need for this activity had not been realized at the time GPC committed to the drag testing. In order to reduce the activities in the spent fuel pool and for the reasons described above, Georgia Power requests relief from its commitment to perform drag testing in the spent fuel pool during the current outage of Unit 2.

Sincerely


J. D. Woodard

JDW/HWM

Enclosures:

1. Vogtle -1 Cycle-6 Drag Tests Results During Refueling Outage
2. History of Unit 2 Cycle 5 Rodded Fuel Assemblies And Drop Times

c(w): Georgia Power Company

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Mr. S. D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator

Mr. L. L. Wheeler, Licensing Project Manager, NRR

Mr. C. R. Ogle, Senior Resident Inspector, Vogtle

ENCLOSURE 1

VOGTLE-1 CYCLE-6 DRAG TESTS RESULTS DURING REFUELING OUTAGE

F/A ID	Insert Drag (lbs)	Avg Drag (lbs)	Cycle 6 RCCA Bank ID	Assembly Burnup (MWD/MTU)		Burnup Sharing		
				EOC5	EOC6	EOC5	EOC6	
5G70	80	103.75	C	28624.8	50585.9	1.38	1.04	
5G67	125		C	28761.7	50851.5	1.39	1.04	
5G80	145		C	28686.3	50805.2	1.38	1.04	
5G82	65		C	28560.9	50677.3	1.38	1.04	
5H12	55	55	D	N/A	28350.9	N/A	1.34	
5G56	45	45	D	26891.6	48908.7	1.30	1.04	
5G63	50		D	26931.1	49270.3	1.30	1.05	
5G58	40		D	27077.5	49406.2	1.31	1.05	
5G55	45		D	27198.8	49493.0	1.31	1.05	
5G02	35	43.75	SE	21635.8	42381.8	1.04	0.98	
5G04	40		SE	21793.0	42524.4	1.05	0.98	
5G03	60		SE	21760.1	42551.5	1.05	0.98	
5G01	40		SE	21628.1	42390.3	1.04	0.98	
5G43	40	37.5	SA	27571.9	40728.8	1.33	0.62	
5G41	40		SA	28181.4	41223.2	1.36	0.61	
5G47	30		SA	28086.5	41177.9	1.35	0.62	
5G48	25		SA	28083.8	41159.9	1.35	0.62	
5G40	45		SA	28075.5	41623.9	1.35	0.64	
5G52	40		SA	27946.1	41502.7	1.35	0.64	
5G50	35		SA	27854.3	41129.6	1.34	0.63	
5G44	45		SA	28232.9	41631.8	1.36	0.63	
5H52	35		36.5	SD	N/A	29326.0	N/A	1.38
5H59	40			SC	N/A	28924.3	N/A	1.36
5H73	50			SC	N/A	28977.2	N/A	1.37
5H54	40			SD	N/A	28927.7	N/A	1.36
5H53	35	SC		N/A	28630.8	N/A	1.35	
5H75	30	SD		N/A	30270.4	N/A	1.43	
5H63	35	SC		N/A	28851.9	N/A	1.36	
5H77	25	SD	N/A	29183.2	N/A	1.38		
5H07	30	33.75	SB	N/A	27993.9	N/A	1.32	
5H10	15		SB	N/A	27817.6	N/A	1.31	
5H06	65		SB	N/A	28251.7	N/A	1.33	
5H08	20		SB	N/A	28035.9	N/A	1.32	
5H09	50		SB	N/A	27842.3	N/A	1.31	
5H05	35		SB	N/A	27923.4	N/A	1.32	
5H11	35		SB	N/A	28125.3	N/A	1.33	
5H13	20	SB	N/A	27928.3	N/A	1.32		
5H71	35	30.5	A	N/A	27562.7	N/A	1.30	
5H81	30		A	N/A	27637.8	N/A	1.30	
5H57	20		A	N/A	27677.7	N/A	1.31	
5H64	37		A	N/A	27795.0	N/A	1.31	
5H42	25	22.875	B	N/A	26465.1	N/A	1.25	
5H38	23		B	N/A	26800.7	N/A	1.26	
5H26	20		B	N/A	26864.6	N/A	1.27	
5H43	20		B	N/A	27256.3	N/A	1.29	
5H39	30		B	N/A	26177.1	N/A	1.23	
5H40	25		B	N/A	26069.7	N/A	1.23	
5H28	25		B	N/A	26601.1	N/A	1.25	
5H44	15		B	N/A	26290.9	N/A	1.24	
5H04	19	18.5	C	N/A	25828.1	N/A	1.22	
5H01	15		C	N/A	25944.0	N/A	1.22	
5H03	20		C	N/A	25823.6	N/A	1.22	
5H02	20		C	N/A	25716.0	N/A	1.21	
CYCLE BURNUP				20738.0	21207.6			

ENCLOSURE 2

HISTORY OF UNIT 2 CYCLE 5 RODDED FUEL ASSEMBLIES AND DROP TIMES

Cycle 5 RCCA Location	ASSY	EOC4		EOC5		RCCA Drop Times (msec)			
		BURNUP	BU SHARE	BURNUP	BU SHARE	Dashpot	Turnaround	Dashpot	Turnaround
F10	5S05	19800.5	1.01	43522.0	1.07	1566	2116	1642	2152
F6	5S08	19949.3	1.02	43918.9	1.08	1628	2148	1630	2210
K6	5S09	20095.4	1.03	44224.5	1.09	1566	2116	1638	2168
K10	5S10	19724.9	1.01	43758.8	1.08	1588	2158	1622	2172
M4	5S13	23901.5	1.22	47234.3	1.05	1566	2136	1606	2156
D12	5S14	23730.1	1.21	47214.2	1.06	1574	2144	1598	2148
D4	5S27	24152.0	1.23	47577.9	1.05	1592	2132	1582	2152
M12	5S29	23707.5	1.21	46960.8	1.05	1550	2130	1602	2152
M2	5S35	26947.9	1.38	40182.8	0.60	1620	2150	1660	2180
D14	5S37	26905.3	1.37	40483.5	0.61	1604	2134	1640	2140
D2	5S39	26752.2	1.37	39886.4	0.59	1646	2196	1598	2178
B12	5S40	26733.7	1.36	40055.6	0.60	1636	2176	1624	2124
P12	5S42	26852.7	1.37	40437.1	0.61	1596	2186	1648	2178
H8	5S44	27007.6	1.38	48241.1	0.96	1586	2126	1648	2168
M14	5S46	26819.2	1.37	40022.5	0.59	1658	2178	1648	2188
P4	5S47	26705.6	1.36	39889.9	0.59	1566	2146	1592	2152
B4	5S49	26801.1	1.37	40017.0	0.59	1662	2192	1620	2170
B10	5T13			25667.8	1.16	1616	2126	1618	2178
P6	5T14			25425.1	1.14	1556	2096	1592	2152
K2	5T15			25856.9	1.16	1602	2122	1612	2142
H14	5T17			26401.0	1.19	1574	2094	1580	2100
P10	5T21			26133.4	1.18	1540	2080	1598	2108
H2	5T22			26571.5	1.20	1568	2118	1602	2142
B8	5T23			26291.9	1.18	1654	2124	1632	2182
P8	5T26			26481.1	1.19	1574	2074	1572	2102
K14	5T27			25819.7	1.16	1570	2080	1604	2124
F2	5T29			25447.8	1.15	1568	2108	1624	2134
F14	5T30			26411.8	1.19	1594	2104	1592	2142
B6	5T32			25701.0	1.16	1572	2142	1600	2200
M8	5T33			29282.1	1.32	1576	2116	1636	2166
J3	5T34			29738.7	1.34	1604	2154	1634	2224
N9	5T35			29599.3	1.33	1610	2110	1618	2188
G3	5T36			29593.4	1.33	1608	2148	1674	2234
H4	5T37			29228.1	1.32	1568	2118	1588	2198
J13	5T38			29485.8	1.33	1620	2140	1640	2160
G13	5T39			29536.9	1.33	1594	2114	1590	2180
C9	5T40			29310.2	1.32	1620	2140	1626	2176
H12	5T41			29439.4	1.33	1584	2094	1644	2184
N7	5T42			29369.4	1.32	1586	2096	1600	2160
C7	5T43			29523.5	1.33	1602	2112	1608	2178
D8	5T44			29213.0	1.32	1628	2128	1612	2192
L3	5T55			29757.1	1.34	1622	2142	1706	2236
L13	5T56			29042.8	1.31	1602	2142	1572	2132
K8	5T60			29895.0	1.35	1636	2146	1636	2166
E3	5T63			29360.3	1.32	1540	2120	1612	2172
H6	5T69			29802.4	1.34	1624	2124	1648	2208
C5	5T72			29556.3	1.33	1544	2124	1582	2182
N5	5T77			29450.5	1.33	1596	2086	1612	2142
H10	5T79			29983.0	1.35	1634	2124	1656	2156
C11	5T81			29306.4	1.32	1582	2122	1602	2152
F8	5T82			29836.6	1.34	1578	2148	1622	2192
N11	5T84			30344.7	1.37	1578	2128	1604	2154
E13	5T86			30050.3	1.35	1622	2142	1644	2164

END OF CYCLE 4 BURNUP
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19596.5 MWD/MTU
22214.4 MWD/MTU