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Georgia Power

the southern electric system

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May 31, 1985

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Secretary of the Commission
Attention: Docketing and Services Branch
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

NRC DOCKETS 50-321, 50-366
OPERATING LICENSES DPR-57, NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2
COMMENTS ON COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES AMENDMENTS

Gentlemen:

This letter is submitted in response to the request for comments on the proposed rule: "Communications Procedures Amendments" published in the Federal Register, Vol. 50, No. 58, Tuesday, March 26, 1985.

In general, while we agree that clarification of the requirements for submittals is necessary, we do not believe that a rulemaking is the appropriate forum for such clarification. By definition a rule would require an amendment every time the NRC's internal needs for copies changed. Either of the two vehicles already in use for specifying copy requirements, a Generic Letter or a Regulatory Guide, would provide fully adequate and more efficient and flexible control of the allocation of copies of correspondence. However, regardless of where the requirements for copy distribution are located, we stress the need for a single reference. Further, there is no provision as to the number of copies required if not specified in the regulations as is provided in section A.8 of Enclosure 1 to Generic Letter 82-14. Also, a provision for a negotiated number of copies which would be agreed to by the licensee and the Nuclear Reactor Regulation Licensing Project Manager would codify an existing desirable practice. We believe that both of these additions would greatly enhance the proposed regulation regardless of format.

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add: Steve Scott, W-548

Acknowledged by card... JUN 7 1985

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In commenting on the specific requirements of the proposed rule, we will briefly restate the proposed requirement as published in the Federal Register and then state our comments.

50.4.(a) Requires all copies transmitted to the NRC in Washington, D.C., to be sent to the Document Control Desk as addressee.

We believe that it would speed processing of submittals to have the Nuclear Reactor Regulation Licensing Project Manager specified as the addressee with a copy or copies as required sent to the Document Control Desk. The Licensing Project Manager as the addressee is discussed in Generic Letter 82-30, "Filings Relating to 10 CFR 50 Production and Utilization Facilities", dated December 28, 1982. this reference was not included in the proposed rule's listing of clarifying documentation. We have found that using the Licensing Project Manager as the addressee aids in the processing of our applications.

50.4.(b)(1)(iii) List the copy requirements for TMI requirements pursuant to 10 CFR 50.34(f).

Are 37 copies of this type of information actually required? In light of the other reductions, it would appear that this number could likewise be reduced. This comment also applies to: (b)(1)(v) [hydrogen control system analysis], (b)(1)(vi) [schedule for hydrogen control system], (b)(1)(ix) [ATWS], (b)(1)(x) [exemptions pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73(f)], and (b)(1)(xviii) [application for license amendments].

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50.4.(b)(1)(viii) Copy requirements for amendments to Technical Specifications.

Since Technical Specification Amendments require Significant Hazards Considerations, We suggest the rule combine this statement with 50.4.(b)(1)(xiv), which covers Significant Hazards Considerations. This would clarify the change.

50.4.(b)(1)(xv) Copy requirements for modifications pursuant to 10 CFR 50.109

This requirement seems to conflict with those of 50.4.(b)(2)(xxi) which specify copy requirements for modifications pursuant to 10 CFR 50.109(c).

50.4.(b)(2)(vi) Copy requirements for failure to meet limiting conditions for operating

This requirement could be combined with 50.4.(b)(2)(xx) which specifies copy requirements for Licensee Event Reports.

50.4.(b)(2)(xviii) Copy requirements for reports pursuant to 10 CFR 50.71(a)

For this item, the example of IE Bulletin responses is given. Since bulletins, or any other type of documents, are not specifically called out in 50.71(a), one does not know to what other documents this reporting requirement applies. This could also be interpreted as an overly broad requirement, similar to A.8 of Enclosure 1 to Generic Letter 82-14, which we feel is inappropriate.

50.4.(b)(2)(xix) Copy requirements for Annual Financial Reports

We agree with the reduction in the number of required copies. This comment also applies to: 50.4.(b)(4) [Security Plans], and 50.4.(b)(6) [updated FSAR]

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50.4.(e) Citation of regulatory requirement for submittal as part of the heading to a submittal

This requirement is vague and confusing to apply. For example, for a submittal for an amendment to the Technical Specifications is the required entry 50.90, 50.59(c)(1), 50.4.(e), 50.4.(a)(viii), or 50.4.(a)(xiv)? All of these sections are related to Technical Specifications.

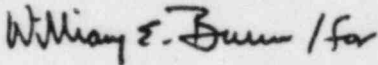
50.4.(f) Copy requirements for a submittal to resolve conflicting requirements specifically 10 CFR 50.12(b)

The number of copies of an exemption request under 50.12(a) should be specified.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on this proposed rulemaking. In summary, the clarification of the reporting requirements is needed. However, we believe that a revision to the rules, as proposed, is not in the best interests of the industry. 10 CFR 50.4 should only state the single reference where the transmittal requirements could be found, thus allowing the requirements to be changed without additional rulemaking.

If you require clarification or amplification of these comments, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,

 /for

L. T. Gucwa

MJB