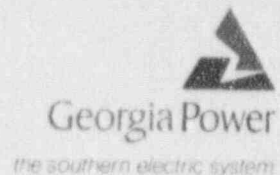


Georgia Power Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201
Telephone 205.877-7122

C. K. McCoy
Vice President, Nuclear
Vogtle Project

February 18, 1993



ELV-05143
2831

Docket Nos. 50-424
50-425

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

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
REVISION TO CONOSEAL LEAK RATE CALCULATION

Gentlemen:

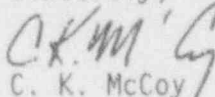
Westinghouse has notified Georgia Power Company of an error in the calculation of the leak rate through the conoseals as reported in their letter GP-14843 dated April 20, 1990. The error is described in Westinghouse letter GP-15766 dated December 10, 1992, which is attached. As a result of this error, the leakages reported in GP-14843 should be increased by a factor of 22.8. Westinghouse considers this error to be in the conservative direction since the original calculation was intended to provide an estimate of the ability of the conoseals to provide a vent path.

The information in letter GP-14843 has not been used for any Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) design or operational purposes; therefore, this error has no effect on the operation of the plant. However, it is noted that the NRC quoted these results on page G-22 of NUREG-1410 (Loss of Vital AC Power and the Residual Heat Removal System During Mid-Loop Operations at Vogtle Unit 1 on March 20, 1990) as part of the basis for concluding that the loss of inventory from the conoseals would have been negligible. For the conoseal leak rates shown in NUREG-1410, it would have been conservative to maximize the calculated leak rates. Therefore, the indicated error does not appear to be conservative relative to the manner in which the calculated leakages were used in NUREG-1410.

Since this information has not been used by VEGP and the error was in the conservative direction per our understanding of its intent, there is no effect of the error on VEGP. The purpose of this letter is to notify the NRC of the potential effects of the error on the leakages used in NUREG-1410.

220018

Sincerely,


C. K. McCoy

CKM/HWM/gmb
Attachment
xc: (See next page)

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PDR ADOCK 05000424
PDR

AD17 1/1

c(w): Georgia Power Company
Mr. W. B. Shipman, General Manager
Mr. M. Sheibani, Plant Engineer Supervisor
NORMS

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C.
Mr. D. S. Hood, Licensing Project Manager, NRR

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
Mr. S. D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator
Mr. B. R. Bonser, Senior Resident Inspector, Vogtle

ELV-05143
002831



GP-15766

Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Energy Systems

Nuclear Services Division

Box 355
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15230-0355Mr. C. K. McCoy
Vice President, Nuclear, Vogtle Project
Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

December 10, 1992

Ref: GP-14843
4/20/90VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
UNITS 1 AND 2
Vogtle Conoseal Leak Rate

Dear Mr. McCoy:

In the reference correspondence, Westinghouse transmitted the results of an analysis to determine the vent rate through the reactor vessel head thermocouple assemblies. The purpose of this analysis was to assist in addressing a mid-loop event occurring on Unit 1 which resulted in a loss of RHR cooling. Westinghouse indicated the venting rates through the assemblies for both saturated steam and compressed water.

An error was identified in the basis calculation which results in changing the flowrates previously reported. This error has the effect of reducing the calculated flowrates by a factor of 22.8. Westinghouse Fluid Systems reviewed the results of this error on the Vogtle analysis and determined its impact to be in the conservative direction. For the analysis performed it was conservative to minimize the venting rates.

However, it is noted that the NRC quoted these results in NUREG-1410, and one of the conclusions that they drew was that the loss of inventory from the conoseals would be negligible (leakage from the conoseals would not impair the ability of the RCS to transfer heat to the steam generators). For the purpose of their conclusion it is conservative to maximize the flowrates. Therefore, the NRC may have mis-applied the results of the previous analysis. The indicated error furthermore aggravates this situation.

In summary, all flowrates indicated in the referenced letter should be increased by a factor of 22.8. For the purposes of the Vogtle analysis the error is conservative and therefore no safety issue is identified. However, Southern Nuclear should evaluate other applications of the results.

Sincerely,

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION

J. L. Tain, Manager
Georgia Power Company Projects