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J. D. Woodard  
Senior Vice President

October 21, 1996

the southern electric system

Docket Nos. 50-321  
50-366

HL-5253

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant  
30 Day Response to Generic Letter 96-06

Gentlemen:

On September 30, 1996, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 96-06, "ASSURANCE OF EQUIPMENT OPERABILITY AND CONTAINMENT INTEGRITY DURING DESIGN-BASIS ACCIDENT CONDITIONS". The GL requires a 30 day initial response and requests within 120 days a written summary addressing the requested actions and requested information contained in the letter.

The 30 day response requires the following information:

- 1) whether or not the requested actions will be completed.
- 2) whether or not the requested information will be submitted.
- 3) whether or not the requested information will be submitted within the requested time period (e.g., 120 days).

**GL 96-06 Discussion**

GL 96-06 represents a culmination of recent information regarding safety significant issues. The NRC has previously issued several information notices and a related generic letter. The concerns identified in this GL are related to:

- 1) The potential for waterhammer in containment cooling systems. Following a LOCA or MSLB, water in these systems may boil and create steam pockets, when there is no water flow. Subsequent startup of the cooling systems could cause the pockets to collapse, leading to water hammer which may not have been considered in the design.

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- 2) The potential for two-phase flow in containment air coolers following LOCA or MSLB scenarios. The heat removal capability of the containment coolers could be reduced by two-phase flow, and may not have been considered in the design.
- 3) The potential for thermally induced overpressurization of isolated piping systems in containment could lead to a breach of the system, or breach of containment via resulting bypass leakage.

Requested Actions: GL 96-06 requests addressees to determine if containment cooling systems are susceptible to waterhammer or two phase flow, and if piping systems penetrating containment are susceptible to overpressurization from thermal expansion of the contained fluid.

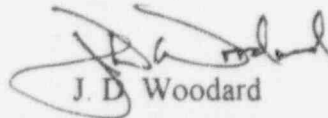
Requested Information: Within 120 days, GL 96-06 requests a written summary of actions taken and conclusions relative to the requested actions, including the basis for continued operability, any corrective actions implemented or planned, and details of any susceptible systems and circumstances which make them susceptible.

### Georgia Power Response

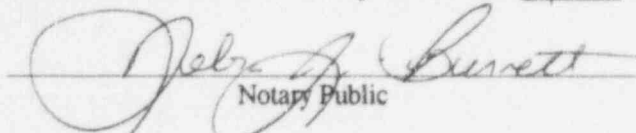
Georgia Power will provide a written summary describing the actions taken and the requested information by January 28, 1997, which is 120 days from the date of GL 96-06.

Mr. J. D. Woodard states he is Senior Vice President of Georgia Power Company and is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Georgia Power Company, and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Sincerely,

  
J. D. Woodard

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1996.

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9-14-98

cc: (See next page.)

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
October 21, 1996

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cc: Georgia Power Company

Mr. H. L. Sumner, Nuclear Plant General Manager  
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. B. L. Holbrook, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch

State of Georgia

Mr. J. D. Tanner, Commissioner - Department of Natural Resources