

August 12, 1985

DMB 016

Dockets Nos. 50-321
and 50-366

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Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Vice President - Nuclear Generation
Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Dear Mr. Beckham:

It has recently come to our attention that the Safety Evaluation that we enclosed with our letter to you dated July 13, 1984 transmitting amendment No. 39 to the Hatch Unit 2 operating license contains a statement concerning the Hatch average Power Range Monitor/Rod Block Monitor Technical Specification (ARTS) Improvement Program that is ambiguous. The statement occurs in the first paragraph of Section 2.6.1 of the report and is - "The effect is to allow operation at 100 percent power for greater than 87 percent flow and to increase the permitted power at 40 percent flow by about 5 percent to 63.2 percent". The ambiguity concerns whether the flow referred to is total core flow or recirculation flow. It should be core flow in which case the permitted power at 40 percent flow is 67 percent rather than 63.2 percent. The minimum flow at 100 percent power (87 percent) is correct. The concern in the low flow area has to do with core thermal-hydraulic stability. Higher power at low flow reduces the margin to instability. However, the stability analysis was performed with the correct assumptions for core power and flow and resulted in a decay ratio less than unity at the least stable point in the power/flow map. Further, Georgia Power Company has committed to follow the recommendations of GE Service Information Letter Number 380 which requires monitoring local and average power instrumentation in order to avoid unstable operation.

Based on the above discussion, we conclude that the ambiguous statement in the evaluation of the Hatch ARTS program has no effect on the conclusions of that evaluation.

Sincerely,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JOHN F. STOLZ*

John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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Georgia Power Company

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant,
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