



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 27, 1996

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

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR UPDATING THE INSERVICE INSPECTION AND
INSERVICE TESTING PROGRAMS - VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
(VEGP), UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M96488 AND 96489)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

By letter dated August 16, 1996, Georgia Power Company (GPC) requested NRC concurrence to update the VEGP Unit 2 Inservice Inspection (ISI) and Inservice Testing (IST) programs for the second 10-year interval approximately 2 years ahead of schedule to make the Unit 2 updates coincident with the updates for Unit 1. GPC further requested NRC concurrence to update the IST programs for Units 1 and 2 to a version of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code other than that specified in 10 CFR 50.55a. The NRC concurs with both of these proposals. As noted in the following discussions, GPC should address, in the IST program submittal to the NRC, the effect of the early Unit 2 update on the relief valve test frequency, and GPC should also revise the IST programs for Units 1 and 2 to indicate that the requirements of Appendix I augment the rules of Subsection ISTC in the IST program.

VEGP Unit 2 ISI and IST Schedules

The Unit 2 second 10-year ISI/IST interval begins on May 20, 1999. The Unit 1 second 10-year interval starts on June 1, 1997. GPC requested NRC concurrence for their proposal that Unit 2 be placed on the same 10-year interval schedule as Unit 1 by updating the Unit 2 program approximately 2 years early.

The purpose of an early update of the Unit 2 ISI and IST programs is primarily to use the same edition of the ASME Code, Section XI, and/or the addenda for both units, which impose identical requirements on the components and systems of each unit and thereby reduce administrative burdens to implement the programs. Placing both units on the same schedule will further facilitate maintaining an effective control over both programs.

VEGP Units 1 and 2 are very similar in design, construction, and operations. Licensees with similar units at the same site have routinely realigned the units' programs for ISI and IST to the requirements of a single Code at some point in time during the licensed life of the units. This alternative has provided an acceptable level of quality and safety. Further, the NRC recommended in NUREG-1482, Section 3.3.2, that licensees with two or more similar units at the same site consider placing units on concurrent intervals to achieve consistency between the IST programs. Based on GPC's submittal,

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the staff concurs with its proposal to update the Unit 2 ISI and IST programs concurrently with Unit 1. This will help provide reasonable assurance of operational readiness.

The staff finds that the applicable ASME Code, Section XI, for the ISI program during the adjusted interval for Unit 2 is acceptable in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4). GPC stated in its letter that the remaining examinations for the final 2 years of the current interval for Unit 2 would be rescheduled during the first 2 years of the new 10-year interval, which would commence on June 1, 1997. This will ensure that the successive examination requirement of the Code will be satisfied.

The IST program for Unit 2 would not be adversely affected by the early update because the normal pump and valve surveillance frequencies, with the possible exception of the relief valves, will not change. GPC should address the effect of the early Unit 2 update on the test frequency of relief valves in its IST program submittal to the NRC. The proposed alternative for the early update of the IST program is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

Use of Alternative ASME Code

GPC requested NRC concurrence in its proposal to use the requirements of ASME OM-1990 for the inservice testing requirements of pumps and valves, with the exception of Mandatory Appendix I, which applies to safety/relief valves. GPC also requested that the requirements specified for safety/relief valves in ASME OM-1995 be used for inservice testing. The 1990 Edition of the OM Code contains essentially the same requirements as Parts 6 and 10 of the OMa-1988 Addenda to the 1987 Edition of the ASME OM Code with the exception that the general administrative requirements, which were previously covered by Subsection IWA of ASME Section XI, are now included in Subsection ISTA of the OM Code. The 1995 Edition of Appendix I corrects several editorial problems and clarifies a number of issues from the earlier editions. Implementing only the portion of the 1995 Edition of the OM Code that addresses testing of pressure relief devices is acceptable because Appendix I is included in both the 1990 and 1995 Editions of the OM Code. The 1995 Edition of the OM Code includes a clarification in the scope of the pressure relief devices that are subject to the requirements of inservice testing. The change is a clarification and not a change in the definition of the scope.

Because the testing will be performed in accordance with requirements that are essentially the same as those referenced in the current regulations, the proposed plan provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. GPC should note that the requirements of Appendix I augment the rules of Subsection ISTC in its IST program. The alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR

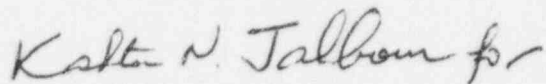
Mr. C. K. McCoy

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50.55a(a)(3)(i) based on the alternative providing an acceptable level of quality and safety. GPC should revise its IST program to indicate that the requirements of Appendix I augment the rules of Subsection ISTC in its IST program.

Please contact L. Wheeler at (301) 415-1444 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Herbert N. Berkow".

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

cc: See next page

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November 27, 1996

50.55a(a)(3)(i) based on the alternative providing an acceptable level of quality and safety. GPC should revise its IST program to indicate that the requirements of Appendix I augment the rules of Subsection ISTC in its IST program.

Please contact L. Wheeler at (301) 415-1444 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

cc: See next page

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