

February 24, 1997

EA-97-045

Georgia Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. C. K. McCoy  
Vice President  
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-424/96-14, 50-425/96-14

Dear Mr. McCoy:

On February 1, 1997, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an inspection at your Vogtle facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period, your conduct of activities at the Vogtle facility was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and appropriate radiological work controls.

One apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. This apparent violation consisted of three examples in the area of configuration control identified in this report, as well as a history of configuration control concerns previously discussed in NRC Inspection Reports 50-424,425/95-21; 50-424,425/95-24; 50-424,425/95-27; 50-424,425/95-31; 50-424,425/96-02; 50-424,425/96-03; 50-424,425/96-05; and 50-424,425/96-11. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation has been scheduled for March 10, 1997. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: 1) the severity of the violation, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of

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the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII. As discussed in the Federal Register, 61 FR 65088, December 10, 1996, enforcement conferences are now open to the public, and this conference will be open to public observation. Although not required, we encourage you to provide your comments on how you believe holding this conference open to public observation affected your presentation and your communications with the NRC.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and any reply will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Pierce H. Skinner)

Pierce H. Skinner, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425  
License Nos. NPF-68 and NPF-81

Enclosure: NRC Integrated Inspection Report  
50-424/96-14, 50-425/96-14

cc w/encl:  
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PUBLIC

NRC Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
8805 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

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w/Edith