

March 25, 1997

EA 97-045

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

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-424/96-14 AND 50-425/95-14

Dear Mr. McCoy:

This refers to the inspections conducted during the period December 22, 1996 through February 1, 1997, at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant. The subject inspections identified an apparent violation consisting of three examples in the area of configuration control. The subject inspection report which identified this apparent violation, was transmitted to you by letter dated February 24, 1997. An open predecisional enforcement conference was conducted in the Region II office on March 10, 1997, to discuss the apparent violation, the root causes, and your corrective actions to preclude recurrence. A list of conference attendees and NRC and Licensee slides used during the conference are enclosed.

Based on the information developed during the inspections and the information your staff provided during the conference, the NRC has determined that two violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection reports. The violations are of particular concern because they are indicative of a recent trend of identified configuration control errors and inadequate two-party or independent verification. In response to the apparent violation, Georgia Power Company undertook an evaluation to address how to improve configuration control at the plant. However, the NRC considers that significant challenges remain to assure that the specific cause of the performance weaknesses are understood and that management focus is maintained to assure that corrective actions are long-lasting and that effective individual performance is maintained.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. In addition, your response should include (1) a detailed discussion of the actions you plan to take in response

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to the Independent Safety Evaluation Group (ISEG) report; (2) the specific actions you plan to monitor long-term worker performance; and (3) a description of any actions you plan to assure personal accountability for the quality of work and independent verification. Finally, with regard to Example 2 of Violation A, your response should include a discussion of operator performance with respect to the number of rounds that failed to identify the mispositioned breakers. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Jon R. Johnson)

Jon R. Johnson, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-424 and 50-425
License No. NPF-68 and NPF-81

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. List of Conference Attendees
3. NRC Slides
4. Licensee Slides

cc w/encls:
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Senior Vice President
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* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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NAME	RCarrion:dka	PSkinner	JJohnson	JJaudon	CEvans	BUryl	
DATE	03 / 17 / 97	03 / 21 / 97	03 / 24 / 97	03 / 20 / 97	03 / 20 / 97	03 / 20 / 97	
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