

September 25, 1985

Docket Nos: 50-424
and 50-425

Mr. Sheppard N. Moore, Chief
NEPA Review Staff
Environmental Assessment Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
345 Courtland Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Dear Mr. Moore:

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Docket File

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Thank you for your letter of May 15 commenting on the FES for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant. The FES constitutes the NRC "Record of Decision." Since the environmental impact is not an issue before the Licensing Board, no further environmental pronouncement will be forthcoming. Therefore, I would like to respond to your comments.

During NRC's environmental review process, the Ebenezer Creek crossing has received the attention of several Federal and state agencies. As a result of input from these agencies, Georgia Power Company has redesigned the segment of the transmission line in the vicinity of the Creek and has committed to employ construction practices which will minimize potential harm to the area. Although I believe they have considered the alternatives you provided in your May 15 letter, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to them to further emphasize the value placed on these natural resources.

We also appreciate the spirit in which the noise comments are offered. In assessing the impact of noise, guidance documents developed by EPA were considered by the NRC staff. The assessment indicated that noise at the predicted level will not cause physical damage, but may constitute an annoyance. Therefore, we are requiring that Georgia Power Company report actual complaints regarding noise along the high voltage transmission line as well as the action it took in response to each complaint. Any additional staff requirements would then be assessed as necessary.

Your interest in this project has been helpful.

Sincerely,

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