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LCV-681-J

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant  
Follow-up Response to Request for Additional Information Regarding GL 95-07

By letter dated October 1, 1999, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) provided a response to a Request for Additional Information (RAI), dated July 23, 1999, regarding Generic Letter (GL) 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves." In the response to a question on the residual heat removal (RHR) loop suction valves (RAI Question #1), SNC described a specific scenario in which analysis showed the modeled pressure in the bonnet could exceed the capability of the actuator to open the valve. SNC stated that further evaluations were planned and that the evaluations would be completed and a follow up response provided by June 1, 2000. This letter provides the results of the evaluation of the RHR loop suction valves.

To support the evaluations, temperature data was collected in the cooldown preceding and the heatup following the Unit 2 fall 1999 refueling outage (2R7). The temperature data was the basis for engineering studies that evaluated potential pressure locking effects on the RHR loop suction valves in plant heatups and cooldowns in recent history. This engineering evaluation has determined that these RHR loop suction valve strokes were within the capability of the actuators.

However, the studies also showed that if the valves are opened under certain potential scenarios involving maximum allowed RCS heatup and cooldown rates, the additional thrust caused by the pressure locking effects may exceed the capability of the actuators. Because of the results of these studies, modifications are planned for the RHR loop suction valves to ensure pressure locking effects do not preclude

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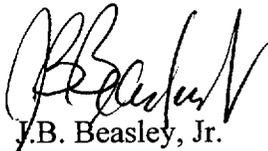
operation of these valves, even in the most limiting conditions. The modifications are planned to be completed:

- for Unit 1, in the spring 2002 refueling outage, and
- for Unit 2, in the spring 2001 refueling outage.

In the interim period, administrative controls will be applied to provide appropriate guidance regarding plant operation to ensure pressure locking effects do not result in the capability of the actuators being exceeded.

Please contact this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



J.B. Beasley, Jr.

JBB/WCM

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
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SNC Document Management

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