

February 27, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /S/

SUBJECT: SECY-92-013 - GEORGIA POWER COMPANY,  
INTERVENOR'S APPEAL OF LBP-91-21

The Commission in CLI-92-03 has acted on an appeal filed by Georgians Against Nuclear Energy (GANE) from an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board decision, LBP-91-21, 33 NRC 419 (1991), which dismissed GANE's proposed contentions and denied the petition for intervention on amendments to Georgia Power Company's operating licenses for the Vogtle plants. The amendments permit the licensee to by-pass the high jacket-water temperature trip of the diesel generator under emergency start conditions. Although the Commission has issued an order dismissing GANE's appeal, the Commission requests the staff to provide the Commission additional information concerning operation of the diesel generators and their associated instrumentation. The Commission is requesting this information pursuant to its general supervisory authority and responsibility over safety matters.

Specifically, the staff is requested to provide the following information:

- 1) The staff should inform the Commission whether the licensee has replaced or plans to replace the Calcon pneumatic sensors used in Vogtle's diesel generator instrumentation. In this regard, the Commission notes that various documents filed before the Licensing Board indicate that the licensee was considering replacement of the sensors. If the Calcon sensors have not been replaced, the staff should explain the rationale for the continued acceptability of the sensors.
- 2) The staff should inform the Commission of the justification for the acceptability of mid-loop operation at Vogtle with a single available diesel generator. In this regard the Commission notes that the staff's safety evaluation for the amendment indicates that, if a diesel generator fails due to

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a loss of engine cooling, emergency onsite AC power would be provided by the redundant diesel generator and its associated electrical train. Only one diesel generator was, however, operable during the March 1990 Vogtle loss-of-power event.

- 3) The staff should inform the Commission of its views as to whether the guidance in Regulatory Guide 1.9, which permits reliance on operator action when certain diesel generator trips are bypassed, is necessary to meet, or goes beyond, the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, Criterion 17. If the guidance goes beyond Appendix A requirements, are there other areas in the Regulatory Guide which also go beyond Appendix A requirements?

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 3/20/92)

Since the CLI-92-3 was issued, the Commission received an additional communication from GANE dated February 13, 1992. GANE's filing is hereby referred to the staff for review and appropriate response.

Attachment:

As stated

cc: The Chairman  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Curtiss  
Commissioner Remick  
Commissioner de Planque  
OGC  
OCAA  
OIG  
ACRS  
DSB  
PDR - Advance  
DCS - P1-24

IF INTERESTED IN SEEING THE ATTACHMENT, PLEASE REFER TO SRM