

February 2, 1996

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

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS - VOGTLE NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT,
UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M94002 AND M94003)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 93 to Facility Operating License NPF-68 and Amendment No. 71 to Facility Operating License NPF-81 for the Vogtle Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated October 16, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated December 22, 1995.

The amendments add a footnote to TS 4.6.1.2.d stating the Type B and C tests scheduled for Unit 1's refueling outage, cycle 6 (1R6) will be conducted in accordance with Option B of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix J (hereafter referred to as Option B) using the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.163, September 1995. This change only applies to Unit 1's refueling outage 1R6 because implementation of Option B for Type A, B, and C testing for both units is being incorporated into the Improved TS that are scheduled to become effective after refueling outage 1R6.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. A Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Louis L. Wheeler, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 93 to NPF-68
2. Amendment No. 71 to NPF-81
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 2, 1996

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

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS - VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT,
UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M94002 AND M94003)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 93 to Facility Operating License NPF-68 and Amendment No. 71 to Facility Operating License NPF-81 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated October 16, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated December 22, 1995.

The amendments add a footnote to TS 4.6.1.2.d stating the Type B and C tests scheduled for Unit 1's refueling outage, cycle 6 (1R6) will be conducted in accordance with Option B of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix J (hereafter referred to as Option B) using the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.163, September 1995. This change only applies to Unit 1's refueling outage 1R6 because implementation of Option B for Type A, B, and C testing for both units is being incorporated into the Improved TS that are scheduled to become effective after refueling outage 1R6.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. A Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis L. Wheeler".

Louis L. Wheeler, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 93 to NPF-68
2. Amendment No. 71 to NPF-81
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. C. K. McCoy
Georgia Power Company

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY
OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 93
License No. NPF-68

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. NPF-68 filed by the Georgia Power Company, acting for itself, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and City of Dalton, Georgia (the licensees), dated October 16, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated December 22, 1995, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations as set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is hereby amended by page changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-68 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 93 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. GPC shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Eugene V. Imbro, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: February 2, 1996



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY
OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 2
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 71
License No. NPF-81

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 2 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. NPF-81 filed by the Georgia Power Company, acting for itself, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and City of Dalton, Georgia (the licensees), dated October 16, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated December 22, 1995, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations as set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is hereby amended by page changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-81 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 71 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. GPC shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Eugene V. Imbro, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: February 2, 1996

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 93

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-68

DOCKET NO. 50-424

AND

TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 71

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-81

DOCKET NO. 50-425

Replace the following page of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the enclosed page. The revised page is identified by Amendment number and contains vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove Page

Insert Page

3/4 6-3

3/4 6-3

CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

- b. If any periodic Type A test fails to meet $0.75 L_a$ the test schedule for subsequent Type A tests shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission. If two consecutive Type A tests fail to meet $0.75 L_a$, a Type A test shall be performed at least every 18 months until two consecutive Type A tests meet $0.75 L_a$ at which time the above test schedule may be resumed;
- c. The accuracy of each Type A test shall be verified by a supplemental test which:
 - 1) Confirms the accuracy of the test by verifying that the absolute value of the supplemental test result, L_c , minus the sum of the Type A and the superimposed leak, L_o , is equal to or less than $0.25 L_a$;
 - 2) Has a duration sufficient to establish accurately the change in leakage rate between the Type A test and the supplemental test; and
 - 3) Requires that the rate at which gas is injected into the containment or bled from the containment during the supplemental test is between $0.75 L_a$ and $1.25 L_a$.
- d. Type B and C tests shall be conducted with gas at a pressure not less than P_a , 37 psig, at intervals no greater than 24 months* except for tests involving:
 - 1) Air locks and
 - 2) Purge supply and exhaust isolation valves with resilient material seals.
- e. Air locks shall be tested and demonstrated OPERABLE by the requirements of Specification 4.6.1.3;
- f. Purge supply and exhaust isolation valves with resilient material seals shall be tested and demonstrated OPERABLE by the requirements of Specification 4.6.1.7.2;
- g. The provisions of Specification 4.0.2 are not applicable.

* The Type B and C tests scheduled for refueling outage 1R6 will be conducted in accordance with Option B of 10 CFR 50 Appendix J, using the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.163, September 1995.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 93 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-68
AND AMENDMENT NO. 71 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-81
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-424 AND 50-425

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 16, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated December 22, 1995, Georgia Power Company, et al. (GPC or the licensee) proposed license amendments to change the Technical Specifications (TS) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP or Vogtle), Units 1 and 2. The proposed changes would add a footnote to TS 4.6.1.2.d stating the Type B and C tests scheduled for Unit 1's refueling outage, cycle 6 (1R6) will be conducted in accordance with Option B of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J (hereafter referred to as Option B) using the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.163. This change is requested only for Unit 1 at this time, beginning with refueling outage 1R6, since implementation of Option B for Type A, B, and C testing for both units is being incorporated into the Improved TS that are scheduled to become effective after refueling outage 1R6. The December 22, 1995, letter provided clarifying information that did not change the scope of the October 16, 1995, application and initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Compliance with Appendix J provides assurance that the primary containment, including those systems and components which penetrate the primary containment, do not exceed the allowable leakage rate values specified in the TS and Bases. The allowable leakage rate is determined so that the leakage assumed in the safety analyses is not exceeded.

On February 4, 1992, the NRC published a notice in the Federal Register (57 FR 4166) discussing a planned initiative to begin eliminating requirements marginal to safety which impose a significant regulatory burden. Title 10 of CFR Part 50, Appendix J, "Primary Containment Leakage Testing for Water-Cooled Power Reactors," was considered for this initiative and the staff undertook a study of possible changes to this regulation. The study examined the previous performance history of domestic containments and examined the effect on risk of a revision to the requirements of Appendix J. The results of this study are reported in NUREG-1493, "Performance-Based Leak-Test Program."

Based on the results of this study, the staff developed a performance-based approach to containment leakage rate testing. On September 12, 1995, the NRC approved issuance of this revision to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, which was subsequently published in the Federal Register on September 26, 1995, and became effective on October 26, 1995. The revision added Option B "Performance-Based Requirements" to Appendix J to allow licensees to voluntarily replace the prescriptive testing requirements of Appendix J with testing requirements based on both overall and individual component leakage rate performance.

Regulatory Guide 1.163, September 1995, "Performance-Based Containment Leak Test Program," was developed as a method acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing Option B. This regulatory guide states that the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) document NEI 94-01, "Industry Guideline for Implementing Performance-Based Option of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J" provides methods acceptable to the NRC staff for complying with Option B with four exceptions.

Option B requires that the regulatory guide or other implementation document used by a licensee to develop a performance-based leakage testing program must be included, by general reference, in the plant TS.

Regulatory Guide 1.163 specifies an extension in Type A test frequency to at least one test in 10 years based upon two consecutive successful tests. Type B tests may be extended up to a maximum of 10 years based upon completion of two consecutive successful tests and Type C tests may be extended up to 5 years based on two consecutive successful tests.

By letter dated October 20, 1995, NEI proposed TS for implementing Option B. After some discussion, the staff and NEI agreed on a set of model TS which were transmitted to NEI in a letter dated November 2, 1995. These TS are to serve as a model for licensees to develop plant-specific TS in preparing amendment requests to implement Option B.

In order for a licensee to determine the performance of each component, an administrative leakage limit is established. The administrative limit is selected to be indicative of the potential onset of component degradation. Although these limits are subject to NRC inspection to assure that they are selected in a reasonable manner, they are not TS requirements. Failure to meet an administrative limit requires the licensee to return to the minimum value of the test interval.

Option B requires that the licensee maintain records to show that the criteria for Type A, B and C tests have been met. In addition, the licensee must maintain comparisons of the performance of the overall containment system and the individual components to show that the test intervals are adequate. These records are subject to NRC inspection.

3.0 EVALUATION

In its application, the licensee requested to add a footnote to its TS on Type B and C surveillance testing. The proposed footnote reads: "Type B and C tests scheduled for refueling outage 1R6 will be conducted in accordance with Option B of 10 CFR 50 Appendix J, using the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.163, September 1995." Although this wording is not in accordance with the recommendations delineated in the staff's November 2, 1995, letter to NEI, the licensee's proposed TS footnote is only intended to be temporary (it will be superseded when the improved standard TS are implemented after outage 1R6). Furthermore, the licensee's proposed wording is an acceptable alternative to the staff's recommendations.

The licensee requested only to implement the Type B and C tests of Option B for Unit 1's refueling outage 1R6. A schedular exemption and a related license amendment to delay the performance of the Type A test until the 1997 refueling outage were issued on August 29 and November 17, 1995, respectively. As stated in Option B, licensees may adopt either or both Option B requirements (Option B, Section III.A applies to Type A tests; Option B, Section III.B applies to Type B and C tests). Additionally, the implementation of Option B will not change the requirements for testing airlocks or purge supply and exhaust valves with resilient seals. The requirements for testing these items are specified in TS 4.6.1.2.e and f and will be unchanged by the proposed addition of the footnote to TS 4.6.1.2.d. The testing required by the existing TS for airlocks and purge supply and exhaust valves with resilient seals satisfies the requirements of Option B as implemented by Regulatory Guide 1.163, and is therefore acceptable.

Finally, the licensee requested to delete a TS footnote regarding a Type C exemption request that is no longer applicable. The staff agrees that deleting this expired footnote is an appropriate editorial change to the TS.

The licensee's request conforms to the requirements of Option B and is therefore acceptable.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Georgia State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards

consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (60 FR 62490 dated December 6, 1995). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributors: S. Dembek
J. Pulsipher

Date: February 2, 1996