

December 9, 1988

Docket No. 50-424

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President -
Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT (TAC 71398)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing" related to your December 6, 1988, request for an amendment to Facility Operating License NPF-68 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1. The proposed amendment would raise the minimum voltage for tests not requiring circuit breaker closure to ensure that the diesel generator "ready-to-load" condition is met during surveillance.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

151

Jon B. Hopkins, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File

NRC PDR
Local PDR
PDII-3 Reading

S. Varga	14-E-4
G. Lainas	14-H-3
D. Matthews	14-H-25
M. Rood	14-H-25
J. Hopkins	14-H-25
OGC	15-B-18
D. Hagan	MNBB-3302
ACRS (10)	P-315
GPA/PA	17-F-2
Vogtle Plant File	
JSchiffgens	14-H-25

PDII-3:
MRood
12/9/88

A PDII-3
JHopkins:ls
12/9/88

A PDII-3
JSchiffgens
12/9/88

DM
PDII-3
DMatthews
12/9/88

DFOL
11

C.P.
J.W.

8812130296 881209
PDR ADDICK 05000424
PDC



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

December 9, 1988

Docket No. 50-424

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President -
Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT (TAC 71398)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing" related to your December 6, 1988, request for an amendment to Facility Operating License NPF-68 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1. The proposed amendment would raise the minimum voltage for tests not requiring circuit breaker closure to ensure that the diesel generator "ready-to-load" condition is met during surveillance.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon B. Hopkins".

Jon B. Hopkins, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Georgia Power Company

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

Mr. J. P. Kane
Manager, Licensing and Engineering
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Resident Inspector
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 572
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Mr. Ruble A. Thomas
Executive Consultant
Southern Company Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Deppish Kirkland, III, Counsel
Office of the Consumers' Utility
Council
Suite 225
32 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Mr. Paul D. Rice
Vice President & Project Director
Georgia Power Company
Post Office Box 282
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

James E. Joiner
Troutman, Sanders, Lockerman,
& Ashmore
1400 Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. J. A. Bailey
Project Licensing Manager
Southern Company Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Danny Feig
1130 Alta Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Ernest L. Blake, Jr.
Bruce W. Churchill, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037

Carol Stangler
Georgians Against Nuclear Energy
425 Euclid Terrace
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Mr. G. Bockhold, Jr.
General Manager, Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 1600
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Mr. R. P. McDonald
Executive Vice President -
Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, N.W., Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. J. Leonard Ledbetter, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Attorney General
Law Department
132 Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Office of Planning and Budget
Room 615B
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGEORGIA POWER COMPANYOGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATIONMUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIACITY OF DALTON, GEORGIADOCKET NO. 50-424

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-68, issued to Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and City of Dalton, Georgia (the licensee), for operation of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1, located in Burke County, Georgia.

The licensee proposes to amend Technical Specifications (TS) Sections 4.8.1.1.2.a.4, 4.8.1.1.2.g.1, 4.8.1.1.2.h.5, and 4.8.1.1.2.h.7 which require that diesel generator voltage be within a specified range, 4160, +170, -410 volts, during surveillance testing. The proposed change would raise the minimum voltage for tests not requiring circuit breaker closure to ensure that the generator "ready-to-load" condition is met during surveillance.

The minimum voltage currently required by TS 4.8.1.1.2, based on worst-case loading of the diesel generators, is 3750 volts. Before a diesel generator can be loaded, however, a ready-to-load interlock must be

satisfied. This interlock, internal to the diesel generator package, initiates diesel generator circuit breaker closure and acts as a signal from the diesel generator that it is ready to accept load. It has been set by the manufacturer at a voltage of 4025 volts.

The intent of these surveillance requirements is to ensure that a component will respond as required in an accident situation. The tests requiring measurement of diesel generator voltage with the breaker closed are acceptable as written, since the allowable voltage range was determined for loaded conditions. The tests which require voltage measurement with the breaker open need to be revised, because a reading between 3750 and 4025 volts, while meeting test acceptance criteria, would not satisfy the ready-to-load condition. The licensee is, therefore, proposing to raise the minimum allowable voltage in the TS for those tests not requiring breaker closure to 4025 volts (i.e., 4160 -135 volts). The licensee's application for amendment was dated December 6, 1988.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The licensee has evaluated the proposed changes in the plant TS in accordance with the standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) and has determined that operation of Vogtle, Unit 1, in accordance with these changes would not

- (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. The proposed change would raise the minimum required voltage for diesel generator surveillance tests where the generator circuit breaker is open. The change would not affect the method in which testing will be performed. It would merely revise one of the acceptance criteria to a more conservative value. The change would not involve any physical alteration of the plant, setpoint change, or change to an operating parameter. Since the change would not affect plant equipment involved in the initiation or mitigation of previously evaluated accidents, the probability or consequences of such accidents would not be increased.
- (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated. The change would not introduce any new equipment into the plant or require any existing equipment to be operated in a different manner from which it was designed to operate. Since the change would not create a new failure mode, a new or different type of accident would not be possible.
- (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The change would not affect safety limits or limiting safety system settings. Surveillance testing of the diesel generators would continue to satisfy the basis of Technical Specification 3/4.8.1. Raising the minimum

required voltage for unloaded diesel generator surveillance would assure that the ready-to-load condition is satisfied during testing. The change would reduce the probability of diesel generator degradation going undetected, hence margins of safety would not be reduced.

The NRC staff believes that the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications meet the criteria specified in 10 CFR 50.92(c), and hence, proposes to determine that they involve no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination. The Commission will not normally make a final determination unless it receives a request for a hearing.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Regulatory Publications Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration and Resources Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room P-216, Phillips Building, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene are discussed below.

By _____, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility

operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rule of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR §2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days

prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene, which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-800-325-6000 (in Missouri 1-800-342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to David B. Matthews: Petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to Mr. Arthur H. Domby, Troutman,

Sanders, Lockerman and Ashmore, Chandler Building, Suite 1400, 127 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30043, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20555, and at the Burke County Public Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of December 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Jon B. Hopkins, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Sanders, Lockerman and Ashmore, Chandler Building, Suite 1400, 127 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30043, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20555, and at the Burke County Public Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of December 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ls
Jon B. Hopkins, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

LA:PDII-3
MRood
12/9/88

PM:PDII-3
J. Hopkins:ls
12/9/88

PDII-3
for JSchiffgens
12/9/88

DMatthews
D:PDII-3
12/9/88