

November 26, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-424  
and 50-425

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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  
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2  
(TAC NOS. M82130 AND M82131)

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for Hearing."

This notice relates to your application for amendments dated November 12, 1991, which would change the Technical Specifications (TS) to revise the minimum required thermal design flow (TDF). Specifically, the footnote in TS Table 2.2.1 for "Loop Design Flow" would be changed to reduce the specified flow from 95,700 gpm to 93,600 gpm. Similarly, in TS 3.2.5.c; the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) Flow" specified in the LCO (limiting condition for operation) and associated TS Bases 3/4.2.5 would be revised from 393,136 gpm to 384,509 gpm.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Darl S. Hood, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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

November 26, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-424  
and 50-425

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Darl Hood".

Darl S. Hood, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

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Birmingham, Alabama 35201

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY ET AL.  
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-424 AND 50-425  
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS  
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License No. NPF-68 and Facility Operating License No. NPF-81 issued to Georgia Power Company, et al. (licensee), for operation of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Burke County, Georgia 30830.

The proposed amendments would change the Technical Specifications (TS) to revise the minimum required thermal design flow (TDF). Specifically, the footnote in TS Table 2.2.1, for "Loop Design Flow" would be changed to reduce the specified flow from 95,700 gpm to 93,600 gpm. Similarly, in TS 3.2.5.c, the "Reactor Coolant System (RCS) Flow" specified in the LCO (limiting condition for operation) and associated TS Bases 3/4.2.5 would be revised from 393,136 gpm to 384,509 gpm.

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 TDF is a design input parameter in the accident analyses and reactor core thermal/hydraulic design calculations that demonstrate the necessary heat removal from the reactor core. The TDF value assumed in these analyses and reflected in the plant TS provide the licensing basis for the plant. The licensee indicates that the reduction in the TDF has been factored in the accident analyses including evaluation of components and systems, and radiological consequences, as part of its previously MRC approved analyses for VANTAGE-5 reload fuel, and relocation of steam generator narrow range level instrumentation taps. The licensee also indicates that additional transients and events, which were not considered in its VANTAGE-5 or level tap relocation analyses, have been reanalyzed. The structural and functional integrity of the plant systems are based on RCS flow assumptions that are more conservative than the currently proposed TDF values.

The Commission has provided standards for determining whether a significant hazards consideration exists as stated in 10 CFR 50.92. Under the Commission's regulations, 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. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration which is presented below:

1. The reduction in TDF and the LCO value do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. An assumed lower TDF value for the accident analyses will not cause acceptance criteria to be exceeded as determined by the component and systems evaluation. Structural and functional integrity of the plant systems

is maintained since design criteria are based on conservative higher RCS flow assumptions. The reduced LCO flow value will similarly not affect any mechanical design issues. The results of the accident analyses have been shown to meet all acceptance criteria at the reduced TDF value. RCS flow rate is an initial condition assumption to the accident analyses but it is not itself an initiator for any transient. Therefore, the probability of occurrence is not affected.

The radiological consequences of operation at 3565 Mwt with reduced TDF have been assessed as part of VANTAGE-5 fuel program. It was concluded that offsite dose predictions remain within the acceptance criteria for each of the transients affected and this evaluation bounds the conditions of operation at 3411 Mwt. Therefore, the consequences of an accident previously evaluated are not increased.

2. The decrease in TDF and the LCO flow value does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated. No new operating configuration is imposed as a result of the assumed or measured flow reduction. Hence, no new failure modes or failure scenarios are being created for any plant equipment. System and component design bases continued to be based on conservatively higher RCS flow rates. The structural and functional integrity is not challenged as a result of a change in the flow value assumed in the accident analyses or by a reduced flow measurement requirement. Therefore, the types of accidents defined in the FSAR (Final Safety Analysis Report) continue to represent the credible spectrum of events to be analyzed which determine safe plant operation.
3. The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety since the accident analyses meet all acceptance criteria and the plant systems and equipment integrity have not been adversely affected.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within thirty (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, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room P-223, 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, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By January 2, 1992, 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 request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at Burke County Public Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830. 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 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. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide

references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. 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 immediately 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 request 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 in the FEDERAL REGISTER 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.

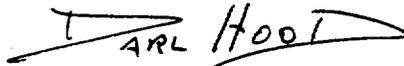
A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, 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 the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to MR. Arthur H. Domby, Troutman, Sanders, Lockerman and Ashmore, Candler Building, Suite 1400, 127 Peachtree Street, NW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1810 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 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the 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 dated November 12, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at Budke County Public Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of November 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DARL HOOD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" and "H".

Darl S. Hood, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation