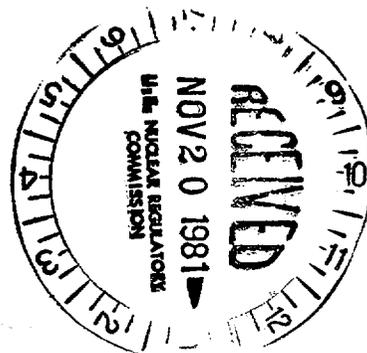


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Dockets Nos. 50-321
and 50-366

Mr. William Widner
Vice President - Engineering
Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Dear Mr. Widner:

By letter dated March 19, 1981, you requested two exemptions to 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Item III.G.3 for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. These exemptions would: (1) delete full fire barriers at the river intake structure, and (2) omit fixed suppression in the control room. In the first instance you state that full fire barriers would interfere with the air cooling of safety related pump motors. For the second item you state that a fixed suppression system in the constantly manned control room would constitute a hazard to plant safety due to the possibility of inadvertent actuation.

We have found that your first request provides a sound technical basis warranting further staff review. The schedule requirements for this item are, therefore, suspended in accordance with 10 CFR 50.48(c)(6) until final Commission action on this request.

We have granted an exemption, enclosed, from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Item III.G.3, stating that a fixed suppression system is not required in the control room.

Your request for exemption from the provisions of 10 CFR 50.48(c)(5) regarding the submittal of your plans and schedules for complying with 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Items III.G and III.L is under review and will be the subject of separate correspondence.

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A copy of the Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

Bill Shields says no concern needed if we follow format
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Hatch 1/2
Georgia Power Company

50-321/366

cc w/enclosure(s):

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Mr. R. F. Rodgers
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Baxley, Georgia 31513

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

(Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units
1 and 2)

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)
)
)
)

Dockets Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

EXEMPTION

I.

The Georgia Power Company (the licensee) and three other co-owners are the holders of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5 which authorize operation of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Hatch or the facilities). These licenses provide, among other things, that they are subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facilities are boiling water reactors located at the licensee's site in Appling County, Georgia.

II.

Section III.G.3 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 requires that a fixed fire suppression system be installed in an area, room or zone under consideration for alternative safe shutdown modifications. In the case of Hatch, under this provision a fixed fire suppression system would be required in the control room.

The licensee indicated in its March 19, 1981 letter, that the fire protection features currently installed in the control room provide adequate fire fighting capability in the control room and constitute an adequate fixed fire suppression system for the area. However, inasmuch as the term "fixed suppression" has been used to connote sprinklers or gas suppression systems, the licensee has requested an exemption from the requirements of III.G.3 to provide a fixed suppression system.

The licensee's exemption request is based on the following:

- An alternate shutdown system has been provided for the control room. This alternate shutdown system provides remote control capabilities for those systems needed to carry out a reactor shutdown function, maintain hot shutdown, proceed to and maintain cold shutdown, from outside the main control room.
- A fire detection system has been installed in the control room.
- A hose station and fire extinguishers have been installed inside the control room.

The modifications which the licensee's exemption request is based on are required by Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. Therefore, the above modifications alone do not justify an exemption from the requirement to install a fixed fire suppression system in areas where redundant divisions are located. However, the control room is a unique area of the plant that is required to be continually occupied by the operators. In the event of a fire, manual fire suppression would be effective and prompt. Because the operators provide a continuous fire watch in the control room, a fixed suppression system is not necessary to achieve adequate fire protection in the control room. This is similar to the concept reflected in the staff's acceptance, on a short-term basis, of a continuous fire watch as an alternative to fixed suppression systems when such systems become unavailable per 3.7.11.2 of the Standard Technical Specifications.

Based on our evaluation, we conclude that the licensee's fire protection features for the control room meet the objectives of Section III.G, "Fire Protection of Safe Shutdown Capability", of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50, and, therefore, the licensee's request to be exempted from the requirement to provide a fixed fire suppression system in the control room should be granted.

III.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, an exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, is otherwise in the public interest, and is hereby granted.

The Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland,
this 16th day of November 1981.