

DMB 016

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Docket No. 50-321

Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.
 Vice President - Engineering
 Georgia Power Company
 P. O. Box 4545
 Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Dear Mr. Beckham:



This letter confirms the oral authorization issued by the NRC staff on July 9, 1981, through a telephone call from M. B. Fairtile, NRC to W. Burns, Georgia Power Company, for a one-time change in Technical Specification 3.7.A.5b, "Oxygen Concentration." The change permitted on extension in time interval, from 24 hours to 48 hours, before the oxygen concentration in the drywell shall be reduced to 4%, after the reactor is placed in the Run Mode. At the time of the extension, the oxygen concentration was very close to 4% and trending towards the limit. On this basis, we concluded the change was acceptable. The change was initiated by a telephone call from R. Baker of Georgia Power Company, on July 9, 1981, to M. B. Fairtile.

An official amendment and appropriate Federal Register Notice will be forwarded in the near future.

Sincerely,
 Original signed by:
 Thomas M. Novak

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
 for Operating Reactors
 Division of Licensing

Handwritten initials

cc: See next page

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 PDR

OFFICE	ORB#4:DL	ORB#4:DL	C-ORB#4:DL	AD-OR-DL		
SURNAME	Ringram	MFairtile;cf	JSto	TNovak		
DATE	7/13/81	7/13/81	7/14/81	7/16/81		

SAFETY EVALUATION
 GEORGIA POWER CORP.
 HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT-UNIT NO. 1

By a phone call on July 9, 1981, at 12:40 PM EDT, from Georgia Power Company the NRC was informed of a discrepancy in the Oxygen Analyser readings for the Unit 1 drywell. The Technical Specifications require that the oxygen content be reduced to 4% within 24 hours after the reactor is placed in the Run Mode. One analyser reads 3.6% and the other reads 4.4%. The licensee is blowing nitrogen gas into the drywell and the trend of oxygen concentration is downward; however, the 24-hour time limit runs out at 3:00 PM EDT, therefore, Ga Power requested an extension in time interval of an additional 24 hours to avoid going into hot shutdown. We conclude that an extension of 24 hours is acceptable as the oxygen concentration is decreasing, and very close to the Technical Specification limit. This represents a one-time relief to the requirements of Technical Specification 3.7.A.5.2 Oxygen Concentration making it read: "within the 48-hour period subsequent . . .", rather than the requirement of: "within the 24-hour period subsequent: . . ."

Approved

 J. M. [unclear]
 7/9/81

Hatch 1/2
Georgia Power Company

50-321/366

cc w/enclosure(s):

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