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Docket No. 50-366

Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.
 Vice President - Nuclear Generation
 Georgia Power Company
 Post Office Box 4545
 Atlanta, Georgia 30302

* w/cy of NSHC Determination

Dear Mr. Beckham:

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing." This notice relates to your license amendment application dated February 23, 1983, as supplemented April 19, 1983, and your application dated March 30, 1983, which would modify the Technical Specifications for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit No. 2, to provide additional and revised trip setpoints that reflect design modifications to reduce containment loads from plant transients. The Technical Specification changes would (1) lower the opening and closing setpoints for subsequent actuation of selected safety relief valves, and (2) lower the main steam isolation valve water level trip setpoint. It would also modify the Technical Specifications to reflect changes to the core design for the third fuel reload of Unit No. 2.

Sincerely,

~~Original Signed by~~

George W. Rivenbark, Project Manager
 Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
 Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
 Notice of Consideration

cc w/enclosure:
 See next page

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cc w/enclosure(s):

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cc w/enclosure & incoming dtd. 2/23/83,
4/19/83 and 3/30/83.

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

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY
OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA

DOCKET NO. 50-366

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

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-5, issued to Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and City of Dalton, Georgia, (the licensees), for operation of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit No. 2 (the facility), located in Appling County, Georgia.

The amendment involves two principal sets of changes. The first set provides additional and revised trip setpoints that reflect design modifications to reduce containment loads from plant transients. These changes would (1) lower the opening and closing setpoints for subsequent actuation of selected safety relief valves, and (2) lower the main steam isolation valve water level trip setpoint. The second set relates to changes to the core design for the third fuel reload of Unit No. 2, to include operation with a new fuel type, 7x7 bundles. This requires numerical changes to the curves which specify maximum average planar linear heat generation rates and minimum critical power ratios. These changes are in accordance with the licensees' application for amendment dated February 23, 1983, as supplemented April 19, 1983, and application for amendment dated March 30, 1983.

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 requests involve 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 Commission has provided guidance concerning the application of these standards by providing certain examples (48 FR 14870). One of the examples of actions likely to involve no significant hazards considerations relates to reload amendments involving no fuel assemblies significantly different than those previously found acceptable at the facility in question. While the fuel assemblies involved in this application, are somewhat different from those previously authorized for Hatch Unit No. 2, 7x7 rather than 8x8, the Commission proposes to determine that the application does not involve a significant hazards consideration since fuel elements of this design have been previously reviewed and approved for use in Hatch Unit No. 1. While there are some differences between Hatch Unit No. 1 and Hatch Unit No. 2 operating characteristics which require a plant specific analysis for the use of the new fuel, these differences are not significant.

With respect to the changes in the trip setpoints, one of the examples of actions likely to involve significant hazards considerations relates to changes in plant operation designed to improve safety but which, due to other factors, allow plant operation with safety margins significantly reduced from those believed to have been present when the plant was licensed. The installation of the Low Level Set Safety Relief Valve (SRV) logic system is intended to mitigate the problems of containment loads during SRV operations identified in NUREG-0661, and as required by Order modifying the license dated January 13, 1981 (46 FR 9280, January 28, 1981) and Modification Order dated January 19, 1982 (47 FR 3901, January 27, 1982). In the present case, the changes involved in the Low Level Set SRV logic system, together with actions previously taken in response to the prior Commission Orders, essentially restore safety margins and consequently the changes would not have the effect of permitting plant operation with safety margins significantly reduced from those believed to be present before the problems discussed in NUREG-0661 were identified. Accordingly, the Commission proposes to determine that these changes do not involve a 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.

Comments should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch.

By June 17, 1983 , the licensees 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. Request for a hearing and petitions 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. 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 requests involve 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, 3717 H 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 (800) 325-6000 (in Missouri (800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to John F. Stolz: 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 Executive Legal Director, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to G. F. Trowbridge, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, attorney for the licensees.

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 designated to rule on the petition and/or request, that the petitioner has made a substantial showing of good cause for the granting of a late petition and/or request. That determination will be 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 applications for amendment which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Appling County Public Library, 301 City Hall Drive, Baxley, Georgia.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 12th day of May 1983.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John F. Stoiz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

John F. Stoiz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
Division of Licensing