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January 3, 1979

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Gentlemen:

REFERENCE: RII:RHW; 50-160/78-5

This letter is our response to your report dated December 20, 1978, regarding an inspection of our facility by your staff.

A. Bi-weekly radiosotopic analysis of charcoal cartridge sample

Personnel changes and the malfunction of the multichannel gamma counting equipment during the period June through October, 1978, contributed, in part, to our failure to perform the bi-weekly analysis in a timely manner. We believe these problems have both been resolved. In addition, a more rigorous schedule for this analysis has been incorporated beginning January 2, 1979. We believe we are now in full compliance.

B. Shim Safety blade reactivity worth measurements

The measurement of the shim safety reactivity worths and the calculation of the shutdown margin are excellent student laboratory excercises. In 1978, we deferred these measurements until the Fall Quarter so that they could be incorporated into Nuclear Engineering course No. 4205. The data was in fact taken as noted by your inspector on September 26 and 28, 1978. Unfortunately, through management error, a complete analysis and interpretation was not finished until November, 1978.

To prevent recurrence of this problem, we have requested the reactor operation staff to perform this surveillance independant of any anticipated Nuclear Engineering Laboratories at its scheduled time in the summer period. We are now in full compliance.

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We believe we have responded to all of the matters in your inspection report. If you would like to discuss any item in more detail, please advise me. None of the material we are submitting is considered proprietary.

Very truly yours,

M.V. Davis, Director
Nuclear Research Center

MVD/lrm

cc: Nuclear Safeguards Committee
T.E. Stelson, Vice President/Research
E.E. Renfro, Director, O.C.A.
W.M. Sangster, Dean, College of Engineering
L.W. Weaver, Director, School of Nuclear Engineering