



Georgia Power

Chas. F. Whitmer
Vice President

March 1, 1979

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

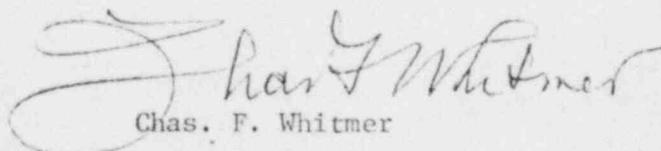
NRC DOCKETS 50-321, 50-366
OPERATING LICENSES DPR-57, NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - SOLID WASTE PROCESSING

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Commission's letter dated January 29, 1979, Georgia Power Company hereby provides additional information regarding the processing of solid waste at Plant Hatch.

Please note that the response to Item I does not include a Process Control Program description or proposed Technical Specifications for the present solid waste systems as requested. Due to the limitations discussed in the attached responses, Georgia Power Company has determined that the submittal of a Process Control Program and proposed Technical Specifications for the solidification of radioactive waste is impractical and premature at this time.

Yours very truly,


Chas. F. Whitmer

JAB/RDB/mb

Attachments

xc: Mr. Ruble A. Thomas
George F. Trowbridge, Esquire

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY
EDWIN I. HATCH UNITS NOS. 1 AND 2
SOLIDIFICATION SYSTEMS

- I. Define the limitations of the presently installed solid radioactive waste system.

RESPONSE:

- A. The limitation of the solidification system on Hatch Unit 1 are as follows:
- 1) The Unit 1 solidification system was designed to handle concentrated evaporator bottoms. The system as designed does not provide for the solidification of dewatered powdex resin.
 - 2) The Unit 1 system was designed to utilize Urea - Formaldehyde (UF) as the solidification agent. Testing performed at the plant site using UF has determined that solidifying with the current system would not produce a product that could meet the proposed criteria of no free standing liquid.
 - 3) The present equipment does not provide a suitable method to detect the amount of free standing liquid or to remove the free standing liquid once the waste are solidified.
 - 4) It is estimated that solidification of solid wet waste at Hatch would at least double the amount of waste shipped. The site storage space is not adequate to accomodate the increased volumes of solidified waste generated.

B. The limitations of the Unit II solidification system are as follows:

- 1) The Unit II solidification system was designed to utilize either Portland Cement or UF as the solidification agent. The UF portion is similar to that used on Unit I and is subject to all the limitations described for the Unit I system.
- 2) The cement system was designed primarily to solidify the small amounts of evaporator bottoms that would be generated throughout plant life. It therefore processes the waste in 55 gallon batches which is impractical and costly for the solidification of spent resin.
- 3) Storage space is inadequate to accommodate the increased volumes of solidified waste associated with the solidification of resins.

II. Identify that waste which cannot be solidified using the existing system and describe the current method of packaging of such waste.

RESPONSE:

As described in the response to item I, dewatered resin cannot be solidified using the existing systems. The current method of packaging spent resin is to put the centrifuged resin in 55 gallon drums for shipment.

III. If you employ an offsite contractor for solidification of "wet" waste, in lieu of operating the installed system, provide a Process Control Program for the operations performed by this contractor.

RESPONSE:

Georgia Power Company does not currently employ offsite contractors for wet waste solidification.

- IV. Provide your schedule for upgrading your solid waste system to be in conformance with BTP ETSB 11-3 as indicated in the FSAR for Hatch Unit No. 2 and the staff's SER (NUREG-0411, June 1978).

RESPONSE:

Plant Hatch Unit 2 FSAR subsection 11.5.5 states in part that, "Dewatered powdered- and bead-type resins will be packaged in 55-gallon drums without further processing or will be packaged in 55-gallon drums mixed with a cement or urea-formaldehyde solidification agent. Concentrated evaporator bottoms will also be solidified in 55-gallon drums with cement or urea-formaldehyde." It is Georgia Power Company's position that we will fulfill the FSAR commitment.

The cement portion of the Unit II solidification system is presently undergoing start-up testing. It is expected that solidification of evaporator bottoms could be performed within the next few months if necessary. To date, Plant Hatch has not accumulated sufficient chemical waste to require the use of the evaporator.

The present solidification equipment and techniques for spent resins and evaporator bottoms are undergoing an extensive review to determine the costs and benefits associated with the various alternatives for processing solid waste. The study is expected to be completed in approximately six months. If the results of the study indicate that a change to our present methods is required, a schedule for implementation will be developed at that time.