

LER #: 50-321/1980-080, Rev. 1
Licensee: Georgia Power Company
Facility Name: Edwin I. Hatch
Docket #: 50-321

Narrative Report
for LER 50-321/1980-080, Rev. 1

On July 6, 1980, with the Unit 1 reactor at 8% power in Hot Standby for HPCI testing, the Operations Department discovered water leaking from the RWCU common return line to the reactor vessel. Investigation revealed a crack running along the heat affected zone and turning out into the stainless steel (A312-304) spool piece about one inch. A second crack was observed in the middle of the 6" spool piece about one inch in length at approximately the same position on the pipe. The spool piece was removed and replaced with one of the same material. The weld-prep and final welds were inspected via dye-penetrant examination. No indications were found during D-P examination. Our Architect/Engineer recommended performing a X-ray examination during our next refueling outage. This has been included in our ISI schedule for the Unit 1 refueling outage. A hydrostatic pressure test was performed at 1.1 times the operating pressure and no leaks were observed. This is not a repetitive occurrence. There was no affect on public health or safety as a result of this incident.

From the metallurgical analysis performed on the spool piece a third crack was found located immediately downstream from the weld that joined the spool piece to the stainless tubing of the RWCU system and was at a sharp angle to the weld.

The three cracks started from the inside surface of the tubing and propogated transgranularly. All three developed over a period of time, and all were similar in nature; thus, they were considered to have been caused by the same delayed-failure mechanism. Based primarily on the branched nature of the cracks and the likely existence of large residual stresses, it was concluded that stress corrosion cracking was the most probable cause of the cracking. The thermal cycling to which the tubing was exposed and the fact that the cracks propogated predominantly transgranularly suggest that corrosion fatigue was a possible cause of the cracking.

The unit is now in full compliance with the requirements, and no further reporting is required.