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Georgia Power

the southern electric system

J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Vice President and General Manager
Nuclear Generation

October 7, 1981

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



NRC DOCKET 50-321
OPERATING LICENSE DPR-57
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1
REPLACEMENT OF LEAKING FUEL ASSEMBLIES

Gentlemen:

Discussions between my staff and the NRC Hatch Licensing Project Manager have been held regarding the potential for an outage to replace leaking fuel assemblies. As discussed, we are planning an immediate shutdown for Plant Hatch Unit 1 for the purpose of replacing defective fuel assemblies.

We have begun work on a bounding core loading pattern which should remove all leaking fuel assemblies found during in-core sipping. The objective of the loading pattern will be to minimize down time required for the core reconstitution and any additional analyses which may be necessary. Unit 1 Cycle 5 operation began in June, 1981, and was scheduled to end in April, 1982. Based on an anticipated down time of 6 1/2 weeks, to allow for necessary engineering analysis and safety evaluations, we anticipate the end of cycle 5 to occur on September 1, 1982.

This course of action will minimize radiation exposure to the plant workers. In addition, the unit will be available to supply power to the grid during the summer of 1982, minimizing any potential impact on system availability.

Due to the uncertainties involved in generating the required analyses, it may become necessary to request expedited licensing action to support restart of the unit. We request your commitment to expeditiously review such submittals as may be required to support the Unit 1 restart.

We wish to emphasize that we are taking this outage for the sole purpose of removing and replacing leaking fuel assemblies in the Unit 1 core. We believe, based on past industry practice, that this action does not constitute a refueling outage. The next scheduled refueling outage will begin in September, 1982.

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Should you not concur that the outage described is not a refueling outage, thus eliminating the need to perform certain operating cycle related Technical Specification surveillances, please contact me or my staff immediately.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Widner for

J. T. Beckham, Jr.

RDB/mb

xc: M. Manry
R. F. Rogers, III