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Georgia Power

the southern electric system

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

April 23, 1982

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

NRC DOCKET 50-366
OPERATING LICENSE NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2
PROPOSED CHANGE TO SAFETY RELIEF VALVE TAIL-PIPE
PRESSURE SWITCH SETPOINT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.90 as required by 10 CFR 50.59(c)(1), Georgia Power Company (GPC) hereby proposes an amendment to the Edwin I. Hatch Unit 2 Technical Specifications (Appendix A to the Operating License). The proposed change would raise the setpoint of each main steam safety-relief valve (SRV) tail-pipe pressure switch from 20 psig to 85 psig.

It has been determined that the present setpoint on the SRV tail-pipe pressure switches of 20 psig may not be high enough to ensure that the reactor operator would receive the correct information regarding the open/closed condition of these valves, during and following a LOCA. An accident involving an increase in drywell pressure above 20 psig could cause a false indication in the control room that the safety relief valves have opened. This is possible since a vacuum breaker on the SRV tail-pipe would open on a high drywell pressure transient, raising the tail-pipe pressure to that of the drywell.

Assuming a primary containment LOCA design pressure of 65 psig, when combined with a static head pressure in the tail-pipe of 10 psig caused by possible flooding of the pipe, yields a potential condition of 75 psig at a pressure switch whose respective SRV may be closed. Therefore, a setpoint higher than 75 psig is desirable to provide assurance against a spurious SRV open indication from these pressure switches resulting from high drywell pressure. By using an additional 10 psig to account for instrument inaccuracies and to provide margin, the new pressure switch setpoint should be 85 psig. Furthermore, this new setpoint is still low enough to provide rapid annunication in the event an SRV opens.

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Application of this proposed Technical Specification change would in no way constitute an unreviewed safety question as determined by the Plant Review Board and the Safety Review Board. The probability of occurrence or the consequences of an accident or malfunction of safety-related equipment are not increased above those analyzed in the FSAR due to this change, because the pressure switches provide a monitoring function for operator information only. The possibility of an accident or malfunction of a type different than that analyzed in the FSAR does not result from this change because the new setpoint will still allow the pressure switch to perform its intended monitoring function reliably, while decreasing the probability of a false actuation due to a drywell pressure transient. The margin of safety as defined in Technical Specifications is not reduced due to this change, because the pressure switches do not perform a safety function.

Instructions for incorporation of these changes along with copies of the affected Technical Specification page are enclosed.

Included with this proposal is a determination of amendment class. We have determined this to be one Class III amendment, and have enclosed the appropriate payment.

J. T. Beckham, Jr. states that he is Vice President of Georgia Power Company and is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Georgia Power Company, and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the facts set forth in this letter are true.

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

By: J. T. Beckham, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of April, 1982

Notary Public

Notary Public, Georgia, State at Large
My Commission Expires Sept. 20, 1983

CBS/mb

Enclosure

xc: H. C. Nix
R. F. Rogers, III
J. P. O'Reilly (NRC-Region II)