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Georgia Power
the southern electric system

August 12, 1993

Docket Nos. 50-321
50-366

HL-3413
005905

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Modifications to Spent Fuel Pool Level Instrumentation

Gentlemen:

By letter dated September 25, 1992, Georgia Power Company (GPC) committed to improve the spent fuel pool water level instrumentation on both units as part of GPC's response to Inspection Report 92-18. GPC committed to install an additional water level instrument in each pool. The additional instruments were to have been similar to the existing instruments.

Subsequently, GPC has determined that an alternative modification to improve the reliability of the water level instrumentation is warranted. Consequently, GPC is providing notification of a change in the type of modification to the spent fuel pool level instruments. A description of the new modification is provided as follows:

The existing spent fuel pool level instrumentation for both units will be removed and replaced with a single resistance temperature detector (RTD) based electronic standpipe assembly. GPC determined that installing an additional float type mechanical displacement switch similar to the existing switches would not provide the desired increase in reliability due to previous occurrences of the float binding in this type of switch. The new RTD based point type sensor assemblies have no moving parts which preclude the previous failure mode and also provide greater accuracy. The RTD based assembly consists of two probes with one probe serving as a heated reference and the other providing measurement. While it is noted that the new system will provide only one level instrument in each fuel pool, as opposed to the two level instruments GPC previously committed to install, the new system is adequate. Specifically, the new sensor assemblies are fail safe and, in effect, provide a continuous monitor of level instrumentation operability. A failure of the power supply to the assembly, a failure of the reference heater, or a failure of the sensor will result in actuating the alarm contact for either the high or low level alarm. Consequently, the new system provides improved reliability.

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The new level monitoring assembly will be installed in each unit's spent fuel pool during the fall 1993 non-outage work windows.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please call this office.

Sincerely,

J. T. Beckham, Jr.

JKB/cr

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. H. L. Sumner, General Manager - Nuclear Plant
NORMS

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.
Mr. K. Jabbour, Licensing Project Manager - Hatch

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
Mr. S. D. Ebneter, Regional Administrator
Mr. L. D. Wert, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch