

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGEORGIA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2DOCKET NO. 50-366ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to the Georgia Power Company, acting for itself, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and the City of Dalton, Georgia (the licensees), for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 (Hatch or the facility), Facility Operating License No. NPF-5, located in Appling County, Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would change the Hatch Unit 2 Technical Specifications (TS) to increase the allowable main steam isolation valve (MSIV) leakage rate from 11.5 standard cubic feet per hour (scfh) to 100 scfh for any one MSIV and a combined maximum pathway leakage rate of 250 scfh for all four main steam lines, and would delete the TS requirements for the currently installed MSIV leakage control system (LCS).

The proposed amendment is in accordance with the licensee's application dated October 1, 1993, as revised January 6, 1994, and supplemented February 3, 1994.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment is needed to reduce the need for repairs of the MSIVs in order to meet the present, restrictive, leakage requirements; to resolve concerns associated with the current LCS performance capability

at high MSIV leakage rates; and to assure a reliable and effective method is available for treating any potential MSIV leakage during a postulated loss of coolant accident (LOCA). Many BWRs have difficulty meeting their MSIV leakage rate limits. Extensive repair, rework and retesting efforts have negative effects on outage costs and schedules, as well as significant impact on ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) radiological exposure programs for the licensee's staff and labor force. The alternate means proposed by the licensee to treat MSIV leakage makes use of components and systems that can reasonably be expected to remain intact and serviceable following a design basis LOCA. These components are the main steam lines and condenser.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment will not result in a significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite. The proposed action will not increase potential radiological environmental effects due to MSIV leakage beyond those already permitted by the regulations.

MSIV leakage, along with containment leakage, is used to calculate the maximum radiological consequences of a design basis accident. Standard conservative assumptions were used to calculate offsite, control room and the technical support center (TSC) doses, including the doses due to MSIV leakage, which could potentially result from a postulated design basis LOCA at Hatch, and are described in Section 15.1.39 of the Hatch Unit 2 Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). The control room, TSC, and offsite doses resulting from a postulated LOCA have recently been recalculated using currently accepted iodine dose conversion factors. This analysis

demonstrated that a total leakage rate of 250 scfh results in dose exposures for the control room, TSC, and offsite (exclusion area boundary and low population zone) that remain within the requirements of 10 CFR Part 100 for offsite doses and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, for the control room and TSC.

Deletion of the MSIV Leakage Control System will reduce the overall occupational dose exposures due to the elimination of maintenance and surveillance activities associated with the system. The dose exposure associated with deleting the system will be as low as reasonably achievable and will be less than the dose which would result from maintenance and surveillance activities associated with the present system for the remainder of plant life.

Therefore, radiological releases will not differ significantly from those determined previously, and the proposed amendment does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluent or occupational exposures. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other nonradiological environmental impact.

Therefore, there will not be a significant increase in the types or amounts of any effluent that may be released offsite and, as such, the proposed amendment does not involve irreversible environmental consequences beyond those already associated with normal operation of the plant.

Based on its review, the Commission concludes that the proposed amendment is acceptable. The staff has determined that the proposed amendment does not alter any initial conditions assumed for the design

basis accidents previously evaluated and the alternate system is capable of mitigating the design basis accidents.

The proposed amendment does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed amendment involves components in the plant which are located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated. The principal alternative would be to deny the licensee's request for the proposed amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit No. 2, dated March 1978.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The staff consulted with the State of Georgia regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

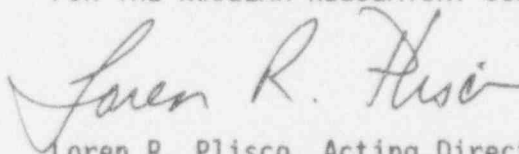
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 1, 1993, as revised January 6, 1994, and supplemented February 3, 1994, which is available for public inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and the local public document room located at the Appling County Public Library, 301 City Hall Drive, Baxley, Georgia 31513.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of February 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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