



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

March 1, 1994

Docket Nos. 50-321
and 50-366

Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Vice President - Plant Hatch
Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Dear Mr. Beckham:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 93-03, "RESOLUTION OF ISSUES RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL INSTRUMENTATION IN BWRs," - EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M84282 AND M84283)

We acknowledge receipt of your response, dated July 27, 1993, to NRC Bulletin (NRCB) 93-03. The NRCB was issued May 28, 1993, to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling water reactors (BWRs) with the exception of Millstone 1 and Big Rock Point. The NRCB requested licensees to take short-term compensatory measures within 15 days of the NRCB to ensure operators can identify and mitigate potential level errors. The NRCB also requested licensees to implement hardware modifications at the first cold shutdown after July 30, 1993, to ensure the level instrumentation system design is of high functional reliability for long-term operation.

Your response stated that you: (1) have implemented appropriate short-term compensatory measures; (2) are going to install the plant-specific hardware modifications on a schedule consistent with NRCB 93-03; (3) determined that the modifications do not involve an unreviewed safety question; and (4) will implement the change under 10 CFR 50.59.

However, by letter dated December 6, 1993, you informed the NRC that on November 8, 1993, Hatch Unit 2 entered a cold shutdown condition following a planned shutdown for the purpose of resolving the cause of an increase in the unidentified leakage inside the primary containment. During this shutdown, the modifications necessary to implement your design of the keepfill systems were completed and tested. Moreover, your December 6, 1993, letter, stated that the systems were placed in service November 15, 1993.

Based on the information provided in your July 27, 1993, we consider your response to NRCB 93-03 acceptable for Hatch Unit 1. However, for Hatch Unit 2, we consider your actions regarding this issue to be complete based on the information provided in your December 6, 1993, letter. Please retain records related to your actions taken in response to this NRCB for possible future inspection by the NRC staff.

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Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.

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This completes the licensing action for TAC Nos. M84282 and M84283. As stated in NRCB 93-03, you are required to submit a report within 30 days of completion of the hardware modifications confirming completion and describing the modification that was implemented.

On November 26, 1993, the NRC staff issued NRC Information Notice (IN) 93-89, "Potential Problems With BWR Level Instrumentation Backfill Modifications." The staff is still reviewing the concerns identified in this IN, and any possible actions will be addressed separately from this TAC.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Kahtan N. Jabbour, Senior Project Manager
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cc: See next page

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