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DEC 10 1990

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425
License Nos. NPF-68, NPF-81

Georgia Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President -
Nuclear Operations
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-424/90-23 AND 50-425/90-23)

The NRC Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) has been completed for your Vogtle facility. The facility was evaluated for the period of October 1, 1989 through September 30, 1990. The results of the evaluation are documented in the enclosed Initial SALP Report. This report will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the Vogtle facility in Waynesboro, Georgia, on December 18, 1990, at 10:00 a.m.

The performance of your Vogtle facility was evaluated in the functional areas of Plant Operations, Radiological Controls, Maintenance/Surveillance, Emergency Preparedness, Security, Engineering/Technical Support, and Safety Assurance/Quality Verification. Overall, the assessment indicates that the Vogtle facility was operated in a safe manner. Radiological Controls practices were noted as being superior. However, demonstrated performance deficiencies in the Security and Emergency Preparedness areas indicate a need for continued aggressive and extensive management attention.

The loss of vital ac power event on March 20, 1990, and the resultant declaration of a Site Area Emergency was the dominant operational occurrence during this rating period. While the immediate response of site personnel was effective in precluding the endangerment of the public, performance deficiencies were identified. You have initiated an extensive corrective action program to correct the shortcomings and preclude their recurrence. It is essential that this program be continued and that the lessons learned be integrated into your daily operational activities.

A special NRC team inspection was performed in August 1990, to determine whether the facility was being operated in a safe manner. Based upon this inspection it was determined that Vogtle was being operated in a safe manner, but there were operational practices where weaknesses were identified. The results of this special team inspection will be transmitted under separate correspondence.

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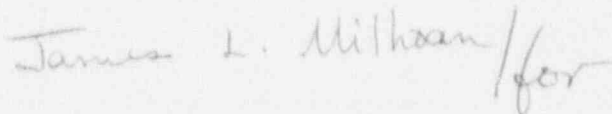
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The great diversity of categorical ratings within this report indicate that firm management is needed to ensure uniform, consistent guidance for operating the facility. NRC inspection efforts over the next SALP period will focus on evaluating whether this consistency is developed.

Any comment you have concerning our evaluation of the performance of your Vogtle facility should be submitted to this office within 30 days following the date of our meeting. These comments will be considered in the development of the Final SALP Report. Your comments and a summary of our meeting will be issued as an appendix to the Final SALP Report.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, we will be glad to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Stewart D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
Initial SALP Report - Vogtle

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