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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

Before Administrative Judges:  
Peter B. Bloch, Chair  
Dr. James H. Carpenter  
Thomas D. Murphy

SERVED JUN 10 1994

In the matter of  
  
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY,  
et al.  
  
(Vogtle Electric  
Generating Plant,  
Units 1 and 2)

Docket Nos. 50-424-OLA-3  
50-425-OLA-3

Re: License Amendment  
(Transfer to Southern Nuclear)

ASLBP No. 93-671-01-OLA-3

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER  
(Board Questions and Concern)

MEMORANDUM

In the course of reviewing NURRG-1410, Loss of Vital AC Power and the Residual Heat Removal System During Mid-Loop Operations at Vogtle Unit 1 on March 20, 1990, we have been impressed by the relevance to this case of Appendix J. There are two assertions in that Appendix that are of particular interest to us. We also have come to understand the importance of acquiring background information on diesel generators, including technical issues of concern at Vogtle, plant procedures, an understanding of the safety reasons for those procedures, and how safety responsibility for diesels is divided among individuals and organizations at Vogtle.

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On page J-2, near the top, NUREG-1410 states that "The licensee has indicated that emergency diesel generator 1A performed successfully during the monthly operability tests preceding the outage." Then, on page J-3, in the middle, the NUREG states, "The licensee is not aware of any unusual alarm conditions or problems that occurred during the testing."

Because of the context of the first statement, immediately following a description of GPC Procedure No. 14980-1, the meaning of "successfully" seems to be clear. We note that this language, "performed successfully," is similar to the language, "successful starts," used by Georgia Power Company (Georgia Power) in the subsequent contested representations to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.<sup>1</sup> In those subsequent representations, Georgia Power seems to have had some problem related to the consistent interpretation of the word "successfully" and communication of that interpretation so that proper data was collected and reported. We have determined that examining communications to the Incident Investigation Team (IIT) may shed important light on the later dialogue between Georgia Power and the NRC.

Hence, we shall ask Georgia Power to produce full documentation for each attempt to start either Unit 1 diesel

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<sup>1</sup>See, e.g., Office of Investigation, Vogtle Electric Generating Plant: Alleged False Statements Regarding Test Results on Emergency Diesel, Case 2-90-020R (December 20, 1993) at 16 (Summary).

between January 1, 1990 and March 20, 1990. We shall ask that the information be presented in easily-understandable tabular form, including events that occurred between the time of the attempted start and the discontinuation of the trial (failed starts should be included). It should be accompanied by the applicable procedures, which should be explained by knowledgeable plant personnel unless their meaning is clear from the way they are written. The tables should be chronological and should include (or footnote) everything contained in the available logs or plant records, including indications of all alarms (whether or not they were "unusual") and problems. The tables should include the root cause of each problem or an indication that the root cause has not been determined. Georgia Power also should determine: (1) who indicated to the Vogtle Incident Inspection Team that diesel generator 1A had performed successfully and that Georgia Power was not aware of any unusual alarm conditions, and (2) the basis for these indications. (Was Georgia Power aware, at the time, of any alarm conditions that were not unusual? What were those conditions and their causes?)

It is our understanding that the root cause analysis of the failure of the diesels to start during the March 20 site area emergency was not completed by the time NUREG-1410 was

issued.<sup>2</sup> We want to know the results of that analysis. In this context, we also want to be informed about how Georgia Power investigated the root cause of the diesel failures that occurred during the Site Area Emergency, including how they considered symptoms that occurred prior to March 20, 1990 or during the subsequent test period. We are interested in how these questions of root cause were pursued and by whom. In addition, we want to know which person or group was responsible for determining whether the diesel generators provided an adequate assurance of safety so that Vogtle could be restarted, the basis for their determination, and who participated in helping them make this decision.

Another issue of concern (that we expect to be answered through testimony at the hearing) is how Georgia Power, Southern Nuclear or Southern Company have assured themselves that the Mosbaugh allegations have been incorrect. In this respect, we expect to be informed of studies conducted by Georgia Power, including who conducted the studies, the methods they used and the outcome of those studies.

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<sup>2</sup>NUREG-1410 at § 2-4.5.

ORDER

For all the foregoing reasons and upon consideration of the entire record in this matter, it is this 9th day of June 1994, ORDERED, that:

1. Georgia Power Company shall produce full documentation for each attempt to start either diesel between January 1, 1990 and March 20, 1990. This information should be organized pursuant to the suggestions made above in the memorandum section of this document.

2. Georgia Power shall submit one or more affidavits informing the Board: (1) who indicated to the Vogtle Incident Inspection Team (IIT) that diesel generator 1A had performed successfully and that Georgia Power was not aware of any unusual alarm conditions, and (2) the basis for these indications.

3. Georgia Power shall submit one or more written affidavits to the Board about whether it was aware, at the time communications were made to the IIT, of any alarm conditions that had occurred but that were not unusual? What were those conditions and their causes?

4. Georgia Power shall submit one or more affidavits to the Board about:

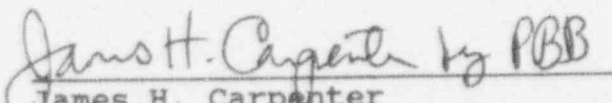
a. how Georgia Power investigated the root cause of the diesel failures that occurred during the Site Area Emergency, including how it considered symptoms that

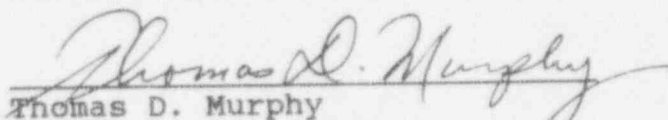
occurred prior to March 20, 1990 or during the subsequent test period.

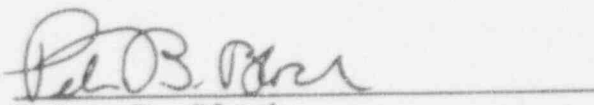
- b. the results of the root cause investigations.
- c. who pursued these questions of root cause.
- d. which person or group was responsible for determining whether the diesel generators provided an adequate assurance of safety to restart Vogtle, the basis for that determination, and who assisted the responsible person or group.

5. Responder to the requests made above shall be filed so that they are received by the Board and parties by 6 pm on Thursday, July 21.

FOR THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

  
James H. Carpenter  
Administrative Judge

  
Thomas D. Murphy  
Administrative Judge

  
Peter B. Bloch  
Chair

Bethesda, Maryland

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.

(Vogtle Electric Generating Plant,  
Units 1 and 2)

Docket No.(s) 50-424/425-OLA-3

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LB M&O (QUESTIONS & CONCENRS) have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge  
Thomas D. Murphy  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
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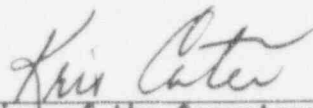
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Docket No.(s)50-424/425-OLA-3  
LB M&O (QUESTIONS & CONCENRS)

C. K. McCoy  
V.President Nuclear, Vogtle Project  
Georgia Power Company  
Post Office Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201

Dated at Rockville, Md. this  
10 day of June 1994

  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission