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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 1991

Mr. Carlton Kammerer
Director
Congressional Affairs Office
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

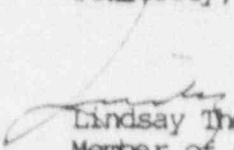
Dear Mr. Kammerer:

One of my constituents has contacted me regarding a matter in which I believe your agency could be helpful. Therefore, the enclosed communication is submitted for your review. I would very much appreciate your responding to my constituents concerns, and offering any assistance available under the applicable laws and regulations.

The contact person on my staff for this case is Mrs. Tiece Ziblut. She can be reached at (202) 225-5831.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and for advising me of any action you should take in this matter.

Sincerely,


Lindsay Thomas
Member of Congress

Enclosure

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Route 4 Box 258D
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

September 20, 1990

The Honorable Lindsay Thomas
United States Representative
Washington, D. C. 20515

In Re: Problems at Vogtle Nuclear
Plant, Burke County, Georgia

Dear Representative Thomas:

I have often voiced my concern for the safety of the citizens and environment since before the nuclear plant above was completed and licensed. Apathy for the most part was what I have received.


It is my belief that not enough knowledge of the dangers involved is known by the general public and care is being taken to keep it that way. We are assured that there is no cause for alarm, and that there is no problem that would affect us adversely, now or future generations. Is this true, and what can we do to force them to tell us the truth?

The enclosed clipping I am sure is 'just the tip of the iceberg', and I am very much afraid we might learn the reassurances are false as has happened numerous times in other nuclear accidents in areas of our country.

Is Georgia Power hiding safety problems, and is the NRC doing its job of investigating properly and efficiently? This is not something that can be corrected down the road should a melt-down be possible and/or probable. We need to know for certain that it can be prevented and that it would be if, God forbid, such a fatal catastrophe takes place.

Thank you for your interest and investigation into this troubling question.

Very truly yours,


Mrs. Gene Odom

bn:

Enclosure

Ex-official says Georgia Power covered up regulator problems

By Mardy Jackson and Jennifer Miller
Staff Writers

A demoted official at Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant has accused Georgia Power Co. of hiding safety problems from federal regulators, but Georgia Power officials said Monday the allegations are false.

Allen L. Mosbaugh, a former assistant plant support manager, said he has filed a petition with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission accusing the utility of lying about the reliability of diesel generators that are supposed to provide backup power for the nuclear plant.

In an incident March 20, a truck servicing a transformer backed into a tower, knocking out a second transformer that provided power to Unit 1 of the two-unit power plant. One diesel generator was down for maintenance. The other failed to start immediately that day.

The incident prompted an investigation by the NRC into the safety and backup generators at the plant.

Mr. Mosbaugh said Monday that during the investigation Georgia Power lied in a letter to the NRC about the number of times the diesel generators had been restarted on other occasions.

He said the letter stated one of the generators had started 18 times and the other 19 times with no problems since the March 20 incident.

But Mr. Mosbaugh said the generators had been started successfully "about half" that many times and there were problems with other restart attempts.

"It essentially failed the same way they did during the emergency," Mr. Mosbaugh said.

He said the main problems were with the sensor switches on the generators.

In a petition filed last Tuesday with the NRC, Mr. Mosbaugh also contends a waste filter system at the plant is inadequate and could allow radioactive water into a nearby creek.

Mr. Mosbaugh's attorney, Michael Kohn of Washington, D.C., said the allegations, made orally before the filing, prompted the NRC to conduct a surprise inspection last month of Vogtle, which is in Burke County about 25 miles south of Augusta.

A Georgia Power spokesman said the allegations are false.

"The petition to the NRC is based on false and inaccurate statements," said Tal Wright, a Georgia Power spokesman. "The issues raised already have been reviewed and discussed by Georgia Power with the NRC."

In a report that followed the investigation of the March 20 loss of power, the NRC concluded Georgia Power knew of other problems with its generators, but did not take proper steps to correct them before the incident.

NRC spokesman Ken Clark confirmed there was an inspection, but it did not uncover any problems serious enough to prompt the shutdown of the plant.

Mr. Wright said the allegations by Mr. Mosbaugh followed an unsuccessful attempt for a financial settle-

Please see SAFETY on 12A

Safety: Utility says charges false on safety issues

Continued from 9A

ment from Georgia Power following a complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Labor.

"Prior to filing the request, Mr. Mosbaugh brought claims against Georgia Power at the U.S. Department of Labor which sought monetary compensation," Mr. Wright said.

But Mr. Mosbaugh said Monday he was demoted from a senior management position to a staff position in May after he began questioning Georgia Power officials about discrepancies in the letter to the NRC.

"I went to them, and I tried to get this corrected within the plant and was meeting resistance," he said.

He said he filed complaints with the labor department after his demotion and said he believes the demotion was a result of his questioning company officials.

Mr. Wright said that in a July 24 letter from the labor department it said it found nothing wrong with the way Mr. Mosbaugh's job was changed at the nuclear power plant.

"After (an) investigation, the Department of Labor concluded Mr. Mosbaugh's change in work assignments were the result of planned management reassignments following the startup of the plant, the planned return to duty of managers temporarily assigned to training and normal variations in the duties of line managers compared to staff employees."

"(This) decision has been appealed."

Last week, after the petition was filed with the NRC, Mr. Mosbaugh, who said he has worked at the nuclear plant for six years, said he was notified that he had been "banned from the site" and his security badge taken away.

He said he is still employed at Plant Vogtle but has been placed on administrative leave.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.