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J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Vice President—Nuclear
Hatch Project



HL-1925
002522

November 15, 1991

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

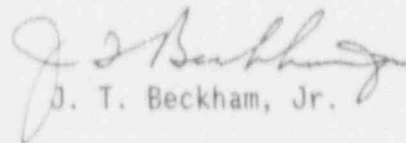
PLANT HATCH - UNIT 2
NRC DOCKET 50-366
OPERATING LICENSE NPF-5
NPDES PERMIT NONCOMPLIANCE

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of Plant Hatch Environmental Technical Specifications, Section 4.3, attached is a copy of a report made to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources concerning a noncompliance with NPDES permit number GA.0004120. This report is applicable to Plant Hatch - Unit 2.

Should you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


J. T. Beckham, Jr.

JKB/cr
002522

Enclosure

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. H. L. Sumner, General Manager - Nuclear Plant
NORMS

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.
Mr. K. Jabbour, Licensing Project Manager - Hatch

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
Mr. S. D. Ebner, Regional Administrator
Mr. L. D. Wert, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch

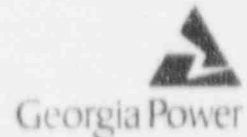
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Chris M. Hobson
Manager,
Licensing and Compliance

November 12, 1991

PLANT HATCH

NPDES Permit No. GA0004120
Unit 2 Cooling Tower Blowdown Valve

Mr. Lawrence W. Hedges
Program Manager,
Industrial Waste Water Program
205 Butler Street, SE - Room 1070
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Hedges:

Attached is a description of the Unit 2 Cooling Tower Blowdown Valve malfunction and unplanned release of chlorine to the Altamaha River which was previously reported to you on November 7, 1991. This report is submitted in accordance with Part II A.2. of the above referenced NPDES permit.

If you have questions or comments, please advise.

Yours very truly,

C. M. Hobson

GNG:kd
Attachment

xc: Mr. Larry P. Kloet, Environmental Engineer

Plant E. I. Hatch
NPDES Permit No. GA0004120

Description of Event

On Thursday November 7, 1991, at approximately 0800 EST, Plant Hatch began a normal chlorination cycle for the Unit 2 circulating water system. The cooling tower flume level had been previously lowered and sodium hypochlorite was injected into the system until approximately 0815 EST. After closing the valve on the sodium hypochlorite tank, Plant Hatch Chemistry personnel obtained a sample from the cooling tower basin and recorded a value of greater than 2 ppm Free Available Chlorine/Total Residual Chlorine (FAC/TRC). Chemistry personnel then proceeded to obtain a sample from the flume. At this time it was observed that the flume level had decreased significantly. Operations personnel investigated the situation and determined that the Unit 2 cooling tower blowdown valve was open. The Unit 2 control room was immediately notified, and the valve was manually closed locally.

As a result of the valve being open, not all of the NPDES Permit requirements for monitoring of the Unit 2 cooling tower blowdown line during periods of chlorination were satisfied. Samples are not required to be routinely taken from the cooling tower blowdown line; therefore, there were no samples taken from the line during the approximate 50 minute period of unplanned chlorine discharge.

The discharge from the blowdown valve was diluted with other effluent water streams prior to discharge to the Altamaha River. No adverse environmental impact was observed to have occurred as a result of the period of unmonitored chlorine discharge.

Cause of Event

The primary cause of the event is attributed to malfunction of the Unit 2 cooling tower blowdown valve torque switch. Failure to follow procedure contributed to the cause of the event. The Operations procedure requires the operator to observe the flume level when the blowdown valve is open and to observe the flume level for one hour following manipulation of the valve until the flume level stabilizes. In this case the operator returned to the control room for shift change without waiting the prescribed time of one hour. This resulted in the decrease in flume level remaining unobserved during the discharge to the river.

Prior to beginning the chlorination process the cooling tower blowdown valve had "red" and "green" position indicating lights illuminated. The normal indication for valve position is "red" for open and "green" for closed. A "red" and "green" indication reflects the valve being in an immediate position. The valve was confirmed to be in the closed position earlier in the shift with both lights on the panel illuminated. Though not required this confirmation was normally performed as a good practice and consisted of a verification that dilution flow from the valve was

zero as read in the radwaste control room. On the morning of November 7, 1991, the valve was returned to the closed position following operation of the valve to lower the flume level. At this time both indicating lights again were illuminated. The cooling tower blowdown valve torque switch malfunctioned such that the valve did not properly close. This failure to close was not properly identified due to the malfunction of limit switches which provide the open and closed valve indication in the control room. The torque switch senses valve closure and terminates valve movement. No additional verification of the valve position as previously described was conducted when both indicating lights were illuminated. The operator assumed the valve was closed and approved the initiation of circulating water system chlorination. However, the torque switch had malfunctioned and the valve remained in an intermediate position.

As a result of the torque switch malfunction and the failure to properly follow the procedure the valve remained open during the chlorination cycle.

Period of Event

The duration of the event was approximately 50 minutes. Chlorination of the Unit 2 circulating water system began at approximately 0800 EST and was terminated at 0815; the blowdown valve was secured at approximately 0850 EST.

Actions Taken to Reduce, Eliminate, and Prevent Recurrence

Upon discovery of the open condition, the blowdown valve was manually secured. Chlorination of the circulating water system was suspended pending investigation into the cause of the problem. No additional mitigative action was necessary. No adverse environmental impact to the Altamaha River was observed as a result of the incident.

Georgia Power Company Environmental Affairs was notified upon confirmation of details associated with the incident. Environmental Affairs notified Mr. Lawrence Kloet, State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), of the incident at approximately 1415 EST. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was subsequently notified.

The torque switch and the position indication circuitry for the Unit 2 cooling tower blowdown valve have been repaired. Appropriate personnel will be counseled with regard to the failure to follow the referenced procedure.

Summary

Based on assessment of the above information, no adverse environmental impact to the Altamaha River occurred as a result of this incident. Plant Hatch has taken appropriate actions to ensure the incident does not recur.

The above information is submitted in accordance with the provisions of Part II A. 2. of the Plant Hatch NPDES Permit (NO. GA0004120).