

50-160

# Georgic Department of Natural Resources

205 Butler Street, S.E., Floyd Towers East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner  
Harold F. Reheis, Director  
Environmental Protection Division  
(404) 656-4713

Reply To:  
Georgia Geologic Survey  
Room 400  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr., S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

August 28, 1995

(404) 656-3214

Mrs. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien  
D23 Golden Valley  
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

Dear Ms. Blockey-O'Brien:

At you request, I have reviewed the additional material that you provided me regarding the safety of the nuclear reactor at Georgia Tech. Also, as I stated to you, I would restrict my review of these additional materials to geological aspects only.

Based on my review of the materials provided by yourself, my previous comments continue to be appropriate. I have no reason to change my previous position. Essentially:

- (1) The Wahoo Creek should have adequate bearing capacity to support the reactor.
- (2) There is no specific evidence of a "sinkhole" in the vicinity of the reactor. (Note: sinkholes are a characteristic of carbonate rock terrains, such as limestone. There are no rocks of such character in the vicinity of the reactor. I suspect, you are using the term sinkhole to refer to the subsurface erosion adjacent to a buried sewer. If this is the case, this would be an engineering condition, not a geological condition).
- (3) The existence of the Ocoee Block does not affect seismicity or ground-water conditions significantly.
- (4) The cause of the "puff-ups" mentioned in your letter is unknown. They are not likely to be "pop-ups" associated with compressive forces. Whatever they are, their origin is probably non-geological.
- (5) The settlement of the new dormitories at Georgia Tech is not relevant to the reactor.
- (6) "Swampy" areas are very common in the Piedmont of Georgia. They can be mitigated by simple engineering design.

In summary, the safety of the reactor at Georgia Tech is not influenced by geological or hydrogeological conditions.

Sincerely,

*William H. McLemore*  
WILLIAM H. McLEMORE  
State Geologist

WHM:bb

cc: Jim Setser ✓  
Marvin Medonca ✓  
Tech Files

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