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October 26, 1995

Docket No. 50-366

HL-5048

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant - Unit 2  
Results of Internal Core Spray Piping Inspections

Gentlemen:

During the current Unit 2 refueling outage, visual inspections of the invessel core spray piping were performed in accordance with Georgia Power Company's (GPC) commitments related to IEB 80-13. The visual inspections covered 100 percent of the accessible core spray internal piping and spargers using a 0.001 inch wire camera resolution. As a result of these inspections, an indication approximately 1/2 inch long was observed on the elbow side of the fillet weld between the collar and the pipe in the area of the downcomer coupling. Inspections of this area during previous refueling outages showed no evidence of an indication.

A reinspection of the indication was performed with enhanced visual techniques including cleaning with a nylon brush and using a 0.0005 inch wire camera resolution per the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel Internals Project (BWRVIP) inspection recommendations. Since the presence of an indication could not be confirmed by the enhanced reinspection, the indication is being conservatively treated as an unclassified relevant indication consistent with the BWRVIP examination guidelines. The internal core spray piping will be re-examined during the next outage as part of regular inspections.

GPC has performed an evaluation of the indication conservatively assuming that the indication represents a postulated circumferential crack near the downcomer coupling. Based on a structural margin evaluation and using a crack growth rate of  $5E-5$  inches per hour, the postulated flaw poses no safety or operational impacts for several cycles. The evaluation is provided in the attached report prepared by General Electric. Additionally, an evaluation has been performed which conservatively assumes the postulated flaw initiates from the inside diameter of the pipe and uses an aspect ratio of 10 to 1, which is consistent with recent core spray piping inspection results from other utilities. Again, using  $5E-5$  inches per hour, these results show that no safety or operational impacts exist for approximately 7 years.

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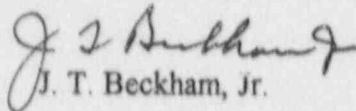
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The subject piping is not under the jurisdiction of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Section XI. GPC is submitting the attached evaluation in recognition of industry and Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff activities associated with core spray piping inspections. Consequently, the technical evaluation is provided for informational purposes. The attached report does not contain proprietary information.

GPC will continue working with the BWRVIP regarding the appropriate inspection techniques. Internal core spray piping indications represent a high priority item with the BWRVIP and will be addressed in the vessel internals inspection and evaluation criteria currently being developed.

Sincerely,

  
J. T. Beckham, Jr.

JKB/eb

Attachment: GENE-523-A110-1095

cc: Georgia Power Company  
Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr., Nuclear Plant General Manager  
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. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator  
Mr. B. L. Holbrook, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch

Attachment

GENE-523-A110-1095  
A Structural Margin Evaluation for  
Hatch Unit 2 Internal Core Spray Lines