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December 11, 1995

Docket Nos. 50-321
50-366

HL-5081

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Revision to Implementation Schedule
Relative to Generic Letter 94-02

Gentlemen:

By letter dated July 11, 1994, the NRC issued Generic Letter 94-02, "Thermal-Hydraulic Instabilities in Boiling Water Reactors," requesting Licensees to take the following actions: 1.) Augment procedures and training for preventing or responding to thermal-hydraulic instabilities and 2.) Submit a schedule and a plan describing the long-term stability solution selected.

By letter dated September 8, 1994, Georgia Power Company (GPC) submitted the requested response to Generic Letter 94-02, indicating the intent to comply with items 1 and 2 above. As stated in the response, GPC selected Option III of NEDO-31960, "BWR Owners Group Long-Term Stability Solutions Licensing Methodology," as the long-term stability solution. Option III introduces new hardware and software that provides early detection of thermal hydraulic instabilities and to initiate an appropriate mitigating action. At that time, GPC was participating in an Owners Group to finalize the General Electric (GE) Option III methodology and had contracted GE to design and deliver the monitoring package. The Unit 2 stability monitor was scheduled for installation during the Fall 1995 refueling outage. The Unit 1 monitor was scheduled for installation during the Spring 1996 refueling outage. After installation, GPC intended to monitor and evaluate the Option III trip performance for one cycle prior to activating the automatic trip to ensure the monitor would not cause unnecessary challenges to plant safety systems. The stability monitors were scheduled to be declared operational following the Unit 2 Spring 1997 refueling outage and the Unit 1 Fall 1997 refueling outage.

Because of delays in the design and testing of the monitoring package by General Electric, the hardware was not available for installation during the Unit 2 Fall 1995 refueling outage. Factory testing of the hardware for one unit was completed on November 22, 1995, and the other is scheduled for completion during December 1995. Because of these

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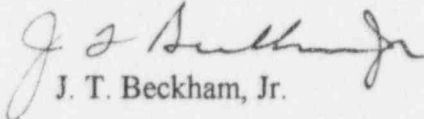
Page 2

December 11, 1995

delays, the design package required for installation has not been completed and insufficient time remains to ensure thorough planning and implementation during the Unit 1 Spring 1996 refueling outage. Also, the NRC has not formally approved the algorithms for the GE Option III methodology. Therefore, based on these considerations, GPC is revising the original schedule to provide for hardware installation on Unit 2 during the Spring 1997 refueling outage and on Unit 1 during the Fall 1997 refueling outage. As stated previously, GPC plans to monitor and evaluate the Option III trip performance prior to activating the automatic trip. However, given the revision in schedule, GPC plans to monitor and evaluate the Option III trip performance for approximately 6 months instead of one cycle.

If you have any questions in this regard, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


J. T. Beckham, Jr.

TWM/eb

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