



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

April 23, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-424
and 50-425

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President -
Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: REACTOR TRIP BREAKER MAINTENANCE FREQUENCY,
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TACS M72839/M72840)

On March 23, 1989, you proposed changes to the Vogtle reactor trip breaker (RTB) maintenance program. Specifically, you proposed that the interval for Group A maintenance items be revised from every six months or 500 breaker operations, whichever occurs first, to every 18 months or 500 breaker operations, whichever occurs first. On July 25, 1989, you provided additional information in support of this proposal.

You note that the proposed interval is consistent with Westinghouse's recommendation in the "Maintenance Program Manual MPM-WOGRTSDS416-01 for Westinghouse Type DS-416 Reactor Trip Circuit Breakers and Associated Switchgear," Revision 0, dated November 30, 1986. The revised interval by Westinghouse is based on a reliability analysis that indicates that the minimum RTB unavailability occurs when preventive maintenance is performed during refueling outages. You also note that the chance of electrical or mechanical damage to the breaker or for human error would be decreased by the proposed interval. Thus, you believe that RTB reliability and the safety of plant operations will increase as a result of the change in maintenance interval.

The NRC staff finds that your proposed change is consistent with paragraph 2.1 of Generic Letter (GL) 83-28, "Required Actions Based on Generic Implications of Salem ATWS Events." This GL requests, in part, that vendor information be appropriately referenced or incorporated in plant instructions and procedures. Moreover, on the basis of assessments by your company and by Westinghouse, we agree that the proposed change will not have an adverse effect on plant safety, and therefore, is acceptable.

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Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Georgia Power Company

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

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D. Matthews	14-H-25
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D. Hood	14-H-25
OGC-WF	15-B-18
E. Jordan	MNBB-3302
ACRS (10)	P-315
A. Toalston	7-E-4
F. Rosa	7-E-4

April 23, 1992

As noted in your letter of March 28, 1989, this change in maintenance interval does not alter requirements in the Technical Specifications (TS) for periodic surveillance testing of the RTBs. Periodic surveillance testing of the RTBs will continue in accordance with TS 3/4.3.1.

If you have questions regarding this matter, contact me at (301) 504-3049.

Sincerely,

151

Darl S. Hood, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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