

January 19, 1996

EA 95-263

Georgia Power Company
ATTN: Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Vice President, Plant Hatch
Nuclear Operations
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
(NRC Inspection Report Nos. 50-321/95-26 and 50-366/95-26)

Dear Mr. Beckham:

This refers to the inspections conducted during the period of October 1 through December 2, 1995, at the Hatch facility. The inspections included a review of the circumstances associated with the November 2, 1995 inadvertent loss of reactor coolant inventory and isolation of shutdown cooling on Unit 2 as well your investigative and follow-up actions. The results of these inspections were sent to you by letters dated December 6 and December 14, 1995, respectively. In addition, you informed NRC of these events and the preliminary results of your investigation on November 2, 1995, by telephone notification to the NRC Operations Center and by Licensee Event Reports dated November 28 and December 14, 1995. A closed predecisional enforcement conference was conducted in the Region II office on December 28, 1995, to discuss the apparent violation, the root causes, and your corrective actions to preclude recurrence. A list of conference attendees, NRC slides, and a copy of your presentation summary are enclosed.

At the conclusion of the conference you provided the NRC with a copy of Inspection Report 50-321, 366/95-26 which contained some handwritten changes. We have evaluated the proposed changes and concluded that except for one they were further clarifications/additions, minor in nature and did not affect the conclusions presented in the Inspection Report. A copy of this report with your proposed handwritten changes, along with an Errata Sheet and the corrected Page 13 for the subject report, are enclosed.

Based on the information developed during the inspections and the information your staff provided during the conference, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the subject inspection reports. The NRC is very concerned with the violation because your Fire Hazards Analysis and Fire Protection Program requires you to maintain the capability to safely shutdown both units from outside the control room in the event of a fire in the main control room. You were fortunate that this shutdown capability was not challenged and appeared to still exist, although a portion of the actions required to be taken would have to be accomplished by manual manipulations

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locally at components rather than at the remote shutdown panels. Deficiencies of a similar nature to more critical components and under a different scenario could have resulted in a loss of this capability.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

The response directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
E. W. Merschoff

Ellis W. Merschoff, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-366
License No. NPF-7

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. List of Conference Attendees
3. NRC Slides
4. Licensee Presentation Material
5. Inspection Report Errata Sheet
6. Inspection Report Comments

cc w/encls:
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NRC Senior Resident Inspector
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 11030 Hatch Parkway North
 Baxley, GA 31513

* = SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

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