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Georgia Power

The Southern Electric System

J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Vice President - Nuclear
Hatch Project

HL-2260
00569

June 11, 1992

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

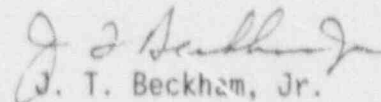
PLANT HATCH - UNIT 1
NRC DOCKET 50-321
OPERATING LICENSE DPR-57
NPDES PERMIT NONCOMPLIANCE

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of Plant Hatch Environmental Technical Specifications, Section 4.3, attached is a copy of a report made to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources concerning a noncompliance with NPDES permit number GA.0004120. This report is applicable to Plant Hatch - Unit 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


J. T. Beckham, Jr.

SRM/cr

Enclosure

cc: Georgia Power Company
Mr. H. L. Sumner, General Manager - Nuclear Plant
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. Ebner, Regional Administrator
Mr. L. D. Wert, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch

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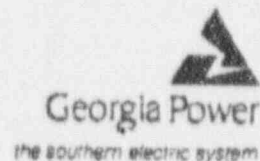
COO1

Georgia Power Company
333 Piedmont Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone 404 526-6529

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 4546
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

S. D. Holder
Manager
Licensing and Compliance

June 3, 1992



E. I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT
NPDES Permit No. GA 0004120

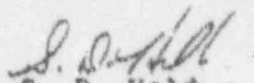
Mr. L. W. Hedges
Program Manager, Industrial Wastewater Program
Georgia EPD
205 Butler Street, SE - Room 1070
Atlanta, Georgia 30234

Dear Mr. Hedges:

Attached is a report on the Hatch Unit 1 cooling tower basin overflow which occurred on May 29, 1992. This incident was reported verbally to EPD by our Mr. G. N. Guill on May 29.

If you have any questions or comments, please advise.

Yours very truly,


S. D. Holder

MEW:kd
Attachment

Plant E. I. Hatch
NPDES Permit No. GA 0004120

Description of Event

On May 29, 1992, at approximately 0730 EDT, it was discovered by Plant Hatch personnel that the basins for all three Unit 1 Cooling Towers were overflowing. Approximately 200,000 gallons of cooling water from the basins overflowed onto the ground and entered the yard drainage system which ultimately discharges to the Altamaha River. The overflow ended at approximately 0930 EDT. A representative sample was taken from the circulating water flume and sent for chromium and zinc analysis. Results from the sample have not yet been received. Samples for FAC and TRC were not taken since circulating water system chlorination had not occurred.

The HNP Unit 2 Cooling Towers currently have a permitted discharge point in the above referenced NPDES permit for emergency overflow to storm drains. The Unit 1 Cooling Tower basins do not currently have a permitted emergency overflow point.

Cause of Event

The direct cause of the event is attributed to a combination of the following two conditions:

- 1) Fouling of the screens associated with each tower resulted in a restriction in Cooling Tower return flow to the circulating water flume. These screens remove debris from the cooling water that is recirculated from the Cooling Tower basin to the circulating water flume.
- 2) Redistribution of the flow among the three towers affected the flow conditions in each tower. The redistribution is a result of the modifications made on May 23, 1992 to the operation of the Unit 1 Cooling Towers due to mechanical problems associated with the distribution piping.

The redistribution of cooling water flow in conjunction with fouling of the screens resulted in an increase in Cooling Tower basin water level followed by eventual overflow of the basin rims. The resulting overflow traveled across the ground and entered the HNP yard drain system, which ultimately discharges to the Altamaha River.

Period of Event

The discharge of cooling water from the basins was discovered at approximately 0730 EDT on May 29, 1992. The discharge continued for approximately 2 hours and ended at approximately 0930 EDT.

Actions Taken to Prevent Recurrence

1. The Cooling Tower screens were cleaned and placed back into service. No additional overflowing of the Unit 1 Cooling Tower basins has occurred.
2. Actions will be taken to ensure that chlorination is not conducted when basin overflow could occur.
3. Increased monitoring and inspection of the Cooling Tower screens will be conducted when conditions indicate that fouling may occur.
4. In the event that system conditions result in additional overflows of Unit 1 Cooling Tower basins, Plant Hatch will collect representative samples for zinc, chromium, FAC and TRC as appropriate. Sample results and additional information describing the overflow event will be recorded and submitted to EPD with the quarterly Operations Monitoring Report. This will be a temporary action pending resolution of the Unit 1 Cooling Tower basin overflow issue. It is the intent of Georgia Power Company to pursue the issue of incorporating the Unit 1 Cooling Tower basin emergency overflow as a permitted point in the HNP NPDES Permit.