



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

June 9, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-424
and 50-425

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

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING TURBINE OVERSPEED
PROTECTION, VOGTLE NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TACS M83229/M83230)

The NRC staff is reviewing your application of April 28, 1992, for amendments to change the surveillance interval specified in the Vogtle technical specifications for periodic disassembly and inspection of the valves associated with the turbine overspeed protection system. We find that additional information, identified below, is required for continuation of this review.

1. Valve reliability is a significant factor for the evaluation of your proposed change. Please discuss in greater detail the consideration you have given to valve reliability as part of your proposed change. Specifically, what is the current reliability of these valves and to what extent and in what manner do you expect this reliability to change if the requested amendments are granted? Provide data (both plant specific and vendor) supporting the reliability of the relevant valves.
2. You note that under the existing surveillance requirement, assuming an 18-month fuel cycle, one valve of each type is disassembled and inspected every other refueling outage; whereas under the proposed surveillance requirement, all four valves of a given type would be disassembled and inspected every third refueling outage. Although your proposal would appear to increase the probability of detecting an impending individual valve failure, we are concerned that the likelihood of early detection of a generic failure of a given type of valve may be decreased, particularly for valves of equivalent age and valves exposed to similar operating conditions. Please discuss the effect of the proposed change in this respect and justify that it would not significantly increase the risk of destructive turbine overspeed. This justification should be based on valve reliability data if appropriate.

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

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

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Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III

- 2 -

June 9, 1992

Your written response to the above items is requested within 45 days of this letter. If you have questions regarding these items or are unable to meet this response date, call me at (301) 504-3049.

This requirement affects fewer than ten respondents, and therefore, is not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under P. L. 96-511.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

cc: See next page

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