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Georgia Power
the southern electric system

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April 18, 1986

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region II - Suite 2900
Marietta Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

REFERENCE:
50-366
RII: VLB

ATTENTION: Dr. J. Nelson Grace

50-366/C

Gentlemen:

Several telephone conversations were held with members of your staff and NRR on April 15 and April 16, 1986, regarding the operability of the Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) System steam supply isolation valve 2E51-F008 presently installed on Hatch Unit 2. The purpose of this letter is to document these conversations by:

1. Describing the problem.

2. Describing the testing that will be performed to assure that the valve is operable.

3. Discussing the additional surveillance which will be performed to show that the valve remains operable.

4. Addressing NRC staff statements regarding assurance that plant LCOs on other systems or degraded plant conditions will not adversely affect the operability of the RCIC system.

Problem Description

On March 29, 1986, control room operators noted that the position indicators for valve E51-F008 were both illuminated and, hence, the valve position (open or closed) could not be verified. Upon testing the valve to assure operability, it was discovered that the valve limit switches and torque switches did not prevent the motor from driving the valve to the locked rotor position. However, testing of the valve assured that the valve would perform (close) within the Technical Specifications limits.

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Testing Requirements

In our discussions with the NRC, we described special testing that could be performed to assure that the valve would perform its safety function (close when required) and maintain a leaktight barrier. The testing would consist of the following elements:

1. Inboard isolation valve 2E51-F007 would be verified closed.

2. Valve 2E51-F008 would be stroked to the open position and the valve opening time recorded. Valve open would be determined by monitoring the valve motor amperage. Cautions would be issued requiring that the amperage not be allowed to reach "locked rotor" amps.

3. Valve 2E51-F007 would be opened, which would pressurize the RCIC steam supply line to the admission valve (2E51-F119).

4. Valve 2E51-F008 would then be closed and the stroke time measured by the same methods described in 2.) above.

5. Leaktightness of valve 2E51-F008 would be assured by confirming that the steam line drain pot high-level annunciator is off; by opening valve 2E51-F119; and by confirming that the RCIC system pressure decreases, that the RCIC turbine does not spin (excluding slight windmilling), and that no steam pressure exists in the steam pot level switch line.

6. The admission valve would then be closed, and leaktightness of valve 2E51-F008 would be assured by monitoring the steam pressure in the steam line and verifying that pressure does not increase beyond allowable values.

Assurance that the RCIC system will perform its function of injecting water into the vessel would be provided by opening valves 2E51-F007 and F008, and by running the RCIC operability test per plant procedures.

Additional Surveillances

To assure that valve 2E51-F008 remains in its proper position, current to the valve motor would be recorded, and the recorder would be monitored on each shift. Standing orders would be issued to assure that this monitoring is accomplished. In addition to monitoring the valve

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position, a heightened awareness of the operability of the RCIC system, its supporting systems, and the RCIC equipment area coolers and their supporting systems would be maintained until valve 2E51-F008 is returned to its original condition. Standing orders would be issued to this effect.

LCOs and Other Plant Degraded Conditions

Standing orders would be issued requiring that the impact of plant LCOs, or other degraded conditions, be evaluated to determine the impact, if any, upon the safety of the plant, taking into consideration the status of valve 2E51-F008.

Based upon the successful performance of the testing (successfully completed on April 17, 1986) and the implementation of the surveillance program described above, Georgia Power Company concluded, and the NRC agreed, that valve 2E51-F008 would be deemed operable.

We expect to operate the unit in this configuration until the next scheduled shutdown, which should occur at the end of May 1986. Should this status change, Georgia Power Company will promptly notify the NRC.

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

Very truly yours,

LT Gucwa / dr

L. T. Gucwa

JDH/lc

c: Georgia Power Company
Mr. J. P. O'Reilly
Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Mr. H. C. Nix, Jr.

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