February 16, 1996

Georgia Power Company
ATTN: Mr. C. K. McCoy
Vice President
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-424/95-31 AND 50-425/95-31 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. McCoy:

This refers to the inspection conducted on December 17, 1995, through January 27, 1996, at the Vogtle facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violation involving the improperly stored incore detectors is of particular concern since multiple barriers failed to prevent this event. While the overall safety significance of this mispositioning was low, we are particularly troubled by the failure of the involved licensed senior reactor operator to perform an objective, independent verification of the detector positions. Accordingly, this violation will not be subject to discretion.

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. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. 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 enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC

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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 responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are 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 P. H. Skinner)

Pierce H. Skinner
Reactor Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425
License Nos. NPF-68, NPF-81

Enclosures: Notice of Violation
Inspection Report

cc w/encls:
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cc w/encls cont'd: (See page 3)

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