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Georgia Power
the southern electric system

NED 84-588

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

REFERENCE:
RII: JPO
50-321
I&E Bulletin
80-13

ATTENTION: Mr. James P. O'Reilly

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to the requirements of I&E Bulletin 80-13, "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers", visual inspection of the Hatch Unit 1 core spray spargers and associated piping has been performed during the refueling/maintenance outage currently in progress. A remote, underwater television camera (having the required capability of in situ viewing of 0.001 inch fine wires) was used for the inspection.

A circumferential crack was discovered in the heat-affected zone of the lower sparger to T-box weld (approximately 1/8 inch from the weld). It spans at least 180° of circumference and is approximately 0.010 inch wide.

Evaluation of the cracking has been performed by General Electric Company. The cause is suspected to be stress corrosion cracking resulting from cold work and sensitization during fabrication and installation of the sparger. An analysis was performed to determine the acceptability of continued operation, using the conservative assumptions that the crack spanned 360° of circumference, was through-wall, and that no clamping device was installed on the sparger. The analysis considered structural effects, the possibility of loose parts, and the effect on LOCA analysis. It was demonstrated that operation with the core spray sparger in the conservatively assumed condition would not result in any safety concern. A report documenting the evaluation performed will be transmitted prior to unit startup.

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Although the analysis shows that it is not necessary, GPC has elected to install a clamping device designed to maintain the structural integrity of the sparger. Installation of this device will provide added assurance that continued operation will result in no safety concern.

Please contact this office if there are any questions.

Very truly yours,

L. T. Gucwa

JH/jh

xc: J. T. Beckham, Jr.
H. C. Nix, Jr.
Senior Resident Inspector
NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement, Division of Reactor Operations Inspection