

JAN 24 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold R. Denton, Director, NRR
 James M. Taylor, Director, IE
 Guy H. Cunningham, Executive Legal Director
 J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator, Region-II

FROM: Victor Stello, Jr.
 Acting Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: VOGTLE READINESS REVIEW PROGRAM

I recently received a summary status report on the Vogtle Readiness Review Program from Nelson Grace and I am pleased to see the interoffice coordination and the progress of your staff in implementing this pilot program. The status report noted that, to date, NRC has completed the review of three readiness review modules. The results of the NRC review of the three modules and the letters of acceptance to Georgia Power Company have been issued. I believe this represents the first time NRC staff has evaluated and accepted a utility representation of the adequacy of reactor construction activities on an incremental basis. This program concept has much potential for demonstrating that NRC can make the operating license review process much more predictable and stable through an incremental and coordinated licensing and inspection review.

The summary report states that through the Readiness Review Program, Georgia Power Company has identified a number of deficiencies and areas needing further review. Although this may be causing schedule slippage, I do not see this as a criticism of the readiness review program. Rather it appears to me that the program is meeting one of its intended objectives, namely, the "early" identification and resolution of problems and issues. Additionally, the summary report lists four open program issues which should be acted on by your staff. The agency-wide procedures for the conduct of the readiness review program should be a priority item for completion and this program should continue to receive the necessary funding.

Original signed by
 Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.
 Acting Executive Director
 for Operations

cc: J. Sniezek
 Regional Administrators

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Revised in DEDROGR Office 1/23/86 - see previous concurrences

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