

December 5, 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-424/96-11, 50-425/96-11 AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. McCoy:

On November 9, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Vogtle Units 1 and 2 reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period covered by this inspection report, your conduct of activities at the Vogtle facility was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and appropriate radiological work controls. However, two violations were identified. We are particularly concerned with the violation regarding the inadequately performed containment exit inspection involving Unit 2. Based on the quantity of debris removed from inside containment and the results of your engineering evaluation, it was determined that residual heat removal train B would have been inoperable in the event of an accident. Further, loose debris in containment has been the subject of previous NRC findings documented in NRC inspection reports 94-25, 96-02, and 96-05.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In addition, one apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. This involved the Unit 1 safety injection pump train B motor cooler maintenance. The lack of specific guidance in the maintenance work instruction resulted in the loss of that pump's intended safety function. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation has been scheduled for December 19, 1996. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This

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conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violation, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII. This conference will be open to public observation in accordance with the Commission's continuing trial program as discussed in the enclosed excerpt from the Enforcement Policy (Enclosure 3). Although not required, we encourage you to provide your comments on how you believe holding this conference open to public observation affected your presentation and your communications with the NRC.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Pierce H. Skinner)

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

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425
License No. NPF-68 and NPF-81

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-424/96-11, 50-425/96-11
3. Enforcement Policy

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NRC Senior Resident Inspector
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DATE	12 / 5 / 96	12 / 5 / 96	12 / 5 / 96	12 / 5 / 96	12 / 5 / 96	12 / 5 / 96
COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO