

official file

MAY 02 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Thomas E. Murley, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation (NRR)
James M. Taylor, Deputy Executive Director for Regional
Operations
James Lieberman, Director, Office of Enforcement

FROM: J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator

SUBJECT: ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION FOR HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT - UNIT 2 -
DOCKET NO. 50-366

This is to document that on April 15, 1988, Georgia Power Company (GPC) was verbally granted a one-time relief to Technical Specification 3.6.6.2.a which provides a limiting condition for operation (LCO) for the primary containment recombiner systems. The relief allowed a one-time, 72-hour extension of the 30-day LCO for operation with one recombiner system inoperable.

The relief was granted to permit operation of Unit 2 with one recombiner system inoperable for an additional 72 hours in order to complete the weld examination, pressure test, and system functional test after a repair to the system which involved cutting and welding of the suction pipe. The system was declared operable at 1:35 a.m. (EST) on April 17, 1988.

The licensee's letter dated April 18, 1988, was reviewed to ensure that the NRC and the licensee were in agreement regarding the extent of the enforcement discretion. In addition to the justifications for operation in this condition presented in the licensee's letter, the remaining unit was operable; the initial functional testing indicated that the affected unit would indeed perform its function; and the welds in question had been dye penetrant tested.

Prior to relief being granted, the technical issues and extent of enforcement discretion were discussed with: G. C. Lainas and L. P. Crocker of NRR; J. Nelson Grace, M. L. Ernst, L. A. Reyes, A. F. Gibson, V. L. Brownlee, M. B. Shymlock, M. V. Sinkule, D. C. Payne, C. A. Patterson, P. Holmes-Ray, and J. Menning of RII; and S. Tipps and J. Heidt of GPC. W. Troskoski of EDO was also informed.

For information regarding this matter, please contact M. V. Sinkule of my staff at extension 5506.

JN
J. Nelson Grace

Enclosures: (See page 2)

Enclosures:

- 1. NRC to GPC Letter dated April 26, 1988
- 2. GPC to NRC Letter dated April 18, 1988

cc w/encls:

- L. A. Reyes
- A. F. Gibson
- G. R. Jenkins
- M. V. Sinkule
- P. Holmes-Ray
- W. Troskoski, EDO
- D. Mathews, NRR
- L. P. Crocker, NRR
- S. A. Varga, NRR

bcc w/encls:

- NRC Resident Inspector
- DRS Technical Assistant
- Hugh S. Jordan, Executive Secretary
- Document Control Desk
- State of Georgia

RII

LT
LTrocine
4/28/88

RII

MS
MSinkule
4/28/88

RII

B
yBrownlee
4/28/88

RII

LR
LReyes
4/28/88

RII

AG
AGibson
4/28/88

RII

GR
GJenkins
4/29/88

RII

ME
MErnst
4/28/88
5/2/88



ENCLOSURE 1
UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323

APR 26 1988

Docket No. 50-366
License No. NPF-5

Georgia Power Company
ATTN: Mr. George F. Head
Senior Vice President-
Nuclear Operations
P. O. Box 4545
Atlanta, GA 30302

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION REGARDING TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATION 3.6.6.2.a - HATCH - UNIT 2

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter dated April 18, 1988, regarding your request for relief of Hatch Unit 2 Technical Specification 3.6.6.2.a on a one time basis. This requirement provides a limiting condition for operation (LCO) for the primary containment recombiner systems, and the waiver requested allowed for a one time 72-hour extension of the 30-day LCO for operation with one recombiner system inoperable. This waiver was requested and subsequently granted via telecon on April 15, 1988. The NRC has reviewed your April 18, 1988, letter documenting this issue and confirms that enforcement discretion was granted to permit operation of Unit 2 with one recombiner system inoperable for an additional 72 hours in order to complete the weld examination, pressure test, and system functional test after a repair to the system which involved cutting and welding of the suction pipe.

In addition to the justifications for operation in this condition presented in your April 18, 1988, letter; the remaining unit was operable, the initial functional testing indicated that the affected unit would indeed perform its function, and the welds had been dye penetrant tested.

The system was declared operable at 1:35 a.m. (EST) on April 17, 1988.

Should you have any further questions regarding this letter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

J. Nelson Grace
Regional Administrator

cc: (See page 2)

~~860504013~~ 5 2pp

APR 26 1988

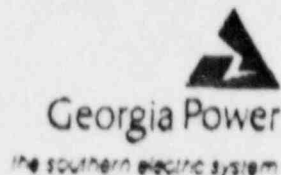
cc: J. T. Beckham, Vice President,
Plant Hatch
H. C. Nix, Plant Manager
O. M. Fraser, Site Quality
Assurance (QA) Supervisor
L. Gucwa, Manager, Nuclear Safety
and Licensing

Georgia Power Company
333 Piedmont Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone 404 526-8528

ENCLOSURE 2

Mailing Address
Post Office Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

L. T. Quow
Manager Nuclear Safety
and Licensing



SL-4563c
2014C
X7GJ10-H000

April 18, 1988

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Regional Administrator - Region II
Suite 2900
101 Marietta Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30323
Attn: Dr. J. Nelson Grace

PLANT HATCH - UNIT 2
NRC DOCKET 50-366
OPERATING LICENSE NPR-5
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS


Gentlemen:

This letter constitutes written follow up of a relief request to Technical Specification (TS) requirements. Specifically, relief from TS requirements (on a one time basis) was requested, and subsequently granted, via telecon between Georgia Power Company (GPC) personnel, members of your staff, and members of the NRR staff on April 15, 1988. The waiver applied to Plant Hatch Unit 2 TS 3.6.6.2.a which provides a Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) for the primary containment recombiner systems. Specifically, the waiver allowed for a one time extension of the 30 day LCO for operation with one recombiner system inoperable. The extension granted was for 72 hours (3 days) after the expiration of the 30 day LCO. The 30 day LCO expired on April 15, 1988 at about 2:00 CDT. The repair to the recombiner system had involved cutting and welding of the suction piping. The waiver was granted with the understanding that Region II personnel would be immediately notified if problems were encountered during the weld examination and pressure testing or during the system functional test. No problems were encountered, however, and the system is functioning properly as of April 18, 1988.

The three day extension of the LCO had an insignificant impact on plant safety. Plant Hatch Unit 2 was originally licensed with a non-inerted containment which used primary hydrogen recombiners as the primary means of LOCA combustible gas control. In 1982 the Unit 2 containment was inerted as required by 10 CFR 50.44 (C)(3)(1). The

~~580425004~~ 2PP

Enclosure 2

Georgia Power 

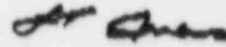
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
April 18, 1988
Page Two

reference report provides the technical basis for the determination that the hydrogen recombiner systems are not necessary for safety in BWR plants with inerted containments.

Based on reference 1, it is concluded that the 3 day LCO extension for Unit 2 is justified.

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

Sincerely,



L. T. Guewa

GKM/lc

Reference:

1. NEDO-22155, "Generation and Mitigation of Combustible Gas Mixtures in Inerted BWR Mark I Containments", June 1982.

c: Georgia Power Company

Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr., Vice President - Plant Hatch
GO-NORMS

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C.
Mr. L. P. Crocker, Licensing Project Manager - Hatch
Document Control Desk

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
Mr. P. Holmes-Ray, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch