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Georgia Power

the southern electric system

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February 28, 1986

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. D. Muller, Project Director
BWR Project Directorate No. 2
Division of Boiling Water Reactor Licensing
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC DOCKET 50-321
OPERATING LICENSE DPR-57
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1
CORE SPRAY SPARGER INSPECTION

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the requirements of I&E Bulletin 80-13, Georgia Power Company (GPC) reported the results of the recent Hatch Unit 1 core spray sparger examination in a letter dated January 6, 1986. Additional information concerning that inspection was requested by Mr. George Rivenbark, Hatch Licensing Project Manager, and is provided herein.

GPC was first requested to describe the extent of the inspection performed on the crack discovered during the last refueling outage.

The crack and the clamping device installed on the sparger were described in our submittal dated December 6, 1984. The clamp allows visual inspection of only a limited portion of the crack. The visible portion begins at the top of the sparger and spans approximately 25-30° of the pipe circumference in the direction of the reactor vessel centerline. The recent inspection revealed no evidence of crack growth. The visible portion of the crack had not increased in width, nor was any new cracking observed on any area of the sparger. No degradation of the clamp had taken place.

GPC was also requested to discuss any air bubble testing which has been performed.

An air bubble test would indicate if a core spray sparger crack were through-wall by pressurizing the submerged sparger with air and observing for bubbles escaping through the crack. Such a test was not performed when the Hatch 1 core spray sparger crack was discovered because GPC chose to take conservative corrective measures which obviated the need for the test

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results. GPC elected to install the clamping device on the sparger even though an analysis demonstrated that the clamp was not necessary for continued safe operation with a 360° through-wall crack. Since GPC's corrective measures were bounding for the worst case cracking, it was not necessary to know if the actual crack was through-wall. The expense of performing an air bubble test was therefore not justifiable.

Please contact this office if you have any further questions.

Very truly yours,



L. T. Gucwa

JHartka/mb

xc: Mr. J. T. Beckham, Jr.
Mr. H. C. Nix, Jr.
Dr. J. N. Grace (NRC-Region II)
Senior Resident Inspector
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