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R. P. McDonald  
Executive Vice President  
Nuclear Operations

*the southern electric system*

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1000U  
X7GJ17-C210

May 31, 1988

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

PLANT VOGTLE - UNITS 1, 2  
NRC DOCKETS 50-424, 50-425  
OPERATING LICENSE NPF-68  
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT CPPR-109  
RESPONSE TO NRC GENERIC LETTER 88-05  
"BORIC ACID CORROSION OF CARBON STEEL REACTOR  
PRESSURE BOUNDARY COMPONENTS IN PWR PLANTS"

Gentlemen:

By the subject Generic Letter dated March 17, 1988, NRC requested that Georgia Power Company (GPC) submit "assurances that a program has been implemented consisting of systematic measures to ensure that boric acid corrosion does not lead to degradation of the assurance that the reactor coolant pressure boundary will have an extremely low probability of abnormal leakage, rapidly propagating failure or gross rupture".

GPC has implemented the following actions and standard operating practices:

- o The Inservice Inspection and Testing Programs (ISI and IST) periodically examine pumps, valves and pipe welds in borated water systems located inside and outside containment.
- o Upper head inspection includes examining for any evidence of Reactor Coolant System (RCS) leakage, e.g., boric acid crystal accumulation, as part of the RCS walkdown following refueling.
- o Operations personnel routinely visit areas of the Auxiliary Building on their rounds. An integrated part of the Plant Equipment Operators training is to be aware of leaks.
- o A general visual inspection of systems inside containment is performed during scheduled and unscheduled unit shutdowns of adequate duration (usually greater than 72 hours) if not performed within the last 90 days.

As a result of the effectiveness of the above actions, identified and unidentified leakage are currently very low for Vogtle Unit 1.

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A program is under development to incorporate the specifics of Generic Letter 88-05 and will be implemented following the first refueling outage for Unit 1. A similar program will be implemented for Unit 2 prior to initial fuel load.

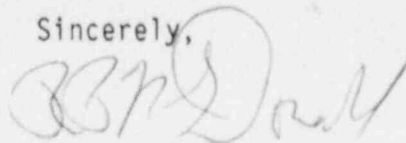
These programs will consist of the following elements:

1. A specific visual inspection of the RCS, using a checklist, will be performed during scheduled and unscheduled unit shutdowns of adequate duration if not performed within the last 90 days.
2. During visual inspections, evidence of borated water leakage will be documented on a deficiency card per Administrative Procedure 00150-C "Deficiency Control". This is the normal process for documenting leakage.
3. In addition, a training program will be generated containing both how to inspect for damaging leakage and the results of boric acid corrosion.

Until a specific RCS checklist is generated, Plant Vogtle will continue to employ the general inspection methods previously discussed.

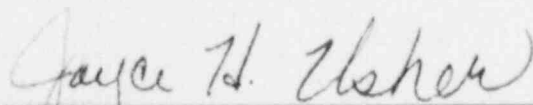
Mr. R. P. McDonald states that he is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Georgia Power Company, and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Sincerely,



R. P. McDonald

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of May 1988.



Notary Public

c: (see next page)

Notary Public, Cobb County, Ga.  
My Commission Expires May 5, 1990

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MJB:ju

c: Georgia Power Company

Mr. P. D. Rice, Vice President and Vogtle Project Director  
Mr. G. Bockhold, Jr., General Manager - Plant Vogtle  
GO-NORMS

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C.

Mr. J. B. Hopkins, Licensing Project Manager - Vogtle (2 copies)

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II

Dr. J. N. Grace, Regional Administrator

Mr. J. F. Rogge, Senior Resident Inspector, Operations - Vogtle

Mr. R. T. Schepen, Senior Resident Inspector, Construction - Vogtle