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the southern electric system

SL-1944 0076U

March 16, 1987

Secretary of the Commission U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attn: Document Control Desk Washington, D.C. 20555

NRC DOCKETS 50-321, 50-366
OPERATING LICENSES DPR-57, NPF-5
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL PENETRATIONS

Gentlemen:

Georgia Power Company (GPC) recently received a copy of the viewgraphs used by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff in a presentation at the December 8, 1986 Operating Reactor Events meeting. One of the viewgraphs relating generally to the nylon cable splice issue indicated that both units of Plant Hatch contained a limited number of the splices in question and that they were unqualified. It further indicated that a justification for continued operation (JCO) had been prepared for each unit. We wish to clarify and expand the information in the viewgraphs.

First, GPC determined on or before December 6, 1986 that no unqualified nylon splices for GE containment electrical penetrations are present in Unit 2. GPC, however, concluded that the possibility existed that nylon cable splices, of the type in question, might be present in the Unit 1 MSIV limit switch circuits. A JCO was prepared for Unit 1 due to this possibility and limited available information associated with the actual failures of the splices tested at Wyle Laboratories.

By December 18, 1986, our engineering support had determined that the splices on the MSIV limit switch circuits at Hatch Unit I were environmentally qualified, even assuming that the splices were identical to those tested at Wyle Laboratories. This conclusion was based on the operational requirements of the affected cable and limit switches. The limit switch circuits operate on 120 VAC, initiate reactor trip on closure of MSIVs, and would only be required to be functional to assure safe shutdown conditions for the first few seconds after a postulated event. The Wyle Laboratores tests did not invalidate the nylon splices tested when used in this voltage range and over such a limited time period. The potential temperature and radiation effects induced on the splices during the time the limit switches are required to be operational are minimal, and therefore, they can be considered to be environmentally qualified under 10 CFR 50.49.

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Should questions or a need for additional information arise, please contact me.

Sincerely,

IT Amera

L. T. Gucwa

KWWhitt/jhu

c: Georgia Power Company

Mr. J. P. O'Reilly

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