50-321

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 3, 1997

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Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr.
Vice President - Nuclear
Hatch Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF A ONE-TIME RELIEF FROM GENERIC LETTER 88-01 INSPECTION FOR EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - (TAC NOS. M99172 and M99185)

Dear Mr. Sumner:

By letter dated October 17, 1995, as supplemented January 26, April 5, June 4, August 13, and November 18, 1996, Georgia Power Company (GPC) submitted its third 10-year interval inservice inspection (ISI) program plan and associated requests for relief, and responded to the NRC staff's requests for additional information for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (Hatch), Units 1 and 2.

The subject ISI program also identified the ASME Code relief requests, inspection commitments, and a revised inspection plan pertaining to the Generic Letter (GL) 88-01 commitment. The NRC staff, with technical assistance from its contractor, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), completed its evaluation of the information provided by GPC in support of the its third 10-year interval (ISI) program and associated relief requests for Hatch Units 1 and 2. The staff adopted INEEL's conclusions and recommendations presented in Technical Evaluation Report, INEL-96/0188, Revision 1, dated December 1996. By letter dated June 16, 1997, the staff issued a safety evaluation (SE) and stated in the subject letter that the ISI program was acceptable for Hatch Units 1 and 2 as no deviations from regulatory requirements or commitments were identified. However, the statement was erroneous because the inspection plan deviates from GPC's prior commitments regarding inspection in response to GL 88-01; furthermore, the revised GL 88-01 inspection plan has not yet been reviewed.

The above situation was brought to the staff's attention and GPC was informed that it would take some time for the staff to complete the review of the revised GL 88-01 inspection plan. By letter dated July 30, 1997, you requested an interim approval of the revised GL 88-01 inspection for two cycles of operation to support the performance of ISI inspection at Hatch Unit 1 during its upcoming refueling outage scheduled to start on October 11, 1997.

Based on the review of your July 30, 1997, submittal, the staff finds that your request for a one-time relief from GL 88-01 for the inspection of Category E welds at Hatch Unit 1 is acceptable. However, the sample expansion guidelines for this inspection should continue to follow those of GL 88-01 and NUREG 0313, Revision 1, because the proposed sample expansion criteria in your submittal do not meet the intent of the guidance in GL 88-01, which is designed to ensure that there is no active deep crack in the repaired weld.

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PDR ADOCK 05000321
G PDR

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It should be noted that the approval of this one-time relief from GL 88-01 for the inspection of Category E welds applies only to the upcoming refueling outage at Hatch Unit 1. Until the revised GL 88-01 inspection plan is approved by the NRC, all future intergranular stress-corrosion cracking inspections at Hatch Units 1 and 2 should continue to follow the guidelines in GL 88-01.

The NRC staff's related evaluation and conclusions are contained in the enclosed Safety Evaluation. This completes our action with respect to TAC Nos. M99172 and M99185. Please contact me at (301) 415-1458 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Ngoc B. Le

Ngoc B. (Tommy) Le, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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The NRC staff's related evaluation and conclusions are contained in the enclosed Safety Evaluation. This completes our action with respect to TAC Nos. M99172 and M99185. Please contact me at (301) 415-1458 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Ngoc B. (Tommy) Le, Project Manager
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Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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