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February 12, 1987

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Washington, D.C. 20555

In the Matter of  
Georgia Power Company, et al.  
(Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2)  
Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425 - 06

Dear Administrative Judges:

By letter dated January 15, 1987, Applicants reported to the Appeal Board recent information concerning Limitorque motor operators at Plant Vogtle. During oral argument on January 21, 1987, the Appeal Board asked several questions relating to the January 15 letter. A review of the January 21 transcript suggests that certain clarifications are indicated. 1/

At pages 33-37 of the transcript, Judges Wilber and Kohl asked questions concerning Applicants' inspections of the Limitorque motor operators. As safety-related Limitorque motor operators were installed and connected, Georgia Power Company

1/ At oral argument, Chairman Edles suggested that parties could comment on NRC inspection and close out reports on the Limitorque matter; but on further review, the Appeal Board decided such comments were not needed. Letter from C. Shoemaker to B. Bordenick (Feb. 5, 1987). Accordingly, this letter confines itself to statements made during oral argument that require clarification.

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performed cable termination inspections. During these cable termination inspections, Georgia Power Company discovered burn damage to motor power leads, which are connected internally, in the vicinity of an internal heater element. Georgia Power Company then performed an engineering evaluation, re-examined a sample of motor operators, and reported its discovery to the NRC. The NRC issued I&E Notice 86-71 as a result. Georgia Power Company determined that the burn damage was caused by the proximity of the power leads to the heater element. Georgia Power Company developed a course of corrective action to include the disconnection of the heater element (which was not a necessary component) and the inspection of the internal wires in the motor operators.<sup>2/</sup>

An NRC inspection at the end of 1986 examined Georgia Power Company's corrective action. The NRC inspector examined seven motor operators and observed two instances of burn damage on power leads. One instance was a slight discoloration that had already been detected and evaluated by Georgia Power Company and dispositioned for use as is. The other occurrence was not reflected in the documentation of Georgia Power Company's prior inspections,<sup>3/</sup> and on further review Georgia Power Company learned that several work orders that were prepared to implement the course of corrective action inadvertently omitted a specific instruction to QC inspectors to inspect the internal wiring of a number of safety-related Limitorque motor operators for burn damage. Georgia Power Company then reinspected the internal wiring of safety-related motor operators for which a specific inspection for burn damage was not clearly documented, with some exceptions noted in the January 15 letter referred to above. The only two instances of burn damage discovered during this reinspection were on wiring for the disconnected heater element, which is of no consequence.

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<sup>2/</sup> Between the time of the cable termination inspections on the Limitorque motor operators (most of which were performed in 1985) and Georgia Power Company's action taken to correct burn damage, two other inspections of the internal wiring of Limitorque motor operators were performed at VEGP. A component acceptance test, which checked wiring for proper connection, was performed on safety-related motor operators, and an EQ walkdown of safety-related motor operators located in a harsh environment was performed to check the environmental qualification of internal wiring.

<sup>3/</sup> The second occurrence of burn damage found by the NRC inspector did not require replacing the power lead. An insulating sleeve was placed over the affected area.

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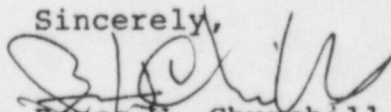
On pages 32 and 37, Judge Wilber asked about the four encapsulated valves which had not been reinspected. Specifically, Judge Wilber asked whether these motor operators would ever be looked at and whether they were the smallest type of motor operator that had the most frequent occurrence of burn damage.

Two of the encapsulated motor operators, Model SB-1-60, are attached to the residual heat removal suction valves. The other two, Model SMB-0-15, are attached to containment spray suction valves. These four motor operators are not the smallest model, which is the Model SMB-000.

Each of these valves and motor operators is located just outside containment on a pipe penetrating containment, and each is part of a redundant train. Each of these four valves, along with the motor operator and the portion of the pipe from the containment penetration to the valve, is enclosed in an encapsulation vessel. Because they are encapsulated, these motor operators are not routinely accessible. The encapsulation vessel, however, can be opened, and the motor operators are subject to regular maintenance and surveillance. Following oral argument and to put this matter to rest, Georgia Power Company opened up the encapsulation vessels and reinspected the internal wiring of the four motor operators in question. No burn damage was found on the power leads or other functional wiring. Burn damage was observed on the disconnected heater circuit wiring in one motor operator, but since that wiring is unnecessary and no longer functional, the discovery has no significance.

We hope that these clarifications will be of assistance to the Board.

Sincerely,



Bruce W. Churchill, P.C.  
Counsel for Applicants

cc: Service List

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board

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GEORGIA POWER COMPANY, et al. )  
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(Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, )  
Units 1 and 2 )

Docket Nos. 50-424  
50-425

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