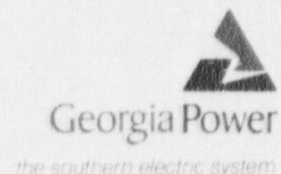


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L. T. Gucwa  
Manager Nuclear Safety  
and Licensing



SL-2935  
0435m  
X7GJ17-V120

July 29, 1987

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

PLANT VOGTLE - UNIT 1  
NRC DOCKET 50-424  
OPERATING LICENSE NPF-68  
RESPONSE TO NRC INSPECTION REPORT

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Georgia Power Company (GPC) submits the following information in response to NRC Inspection Report 50-424/87-34 concerning the inspection conducted by Mr. P. G. Stoddart of NRC Region II on May 18-22, 1987. One apparent violation was cited. A copy of this response has been provided to NRC Region II for review.

We believe that the Notice of Violation for NRC Inspection Report 50-424/87-34 as submitted by NRC Region II letter dated June 29, 1987, incorrectly refers to Plant Vogtle Unit 2 by docket number and as a result implies that it is in violation also. The Report Details section of the Inspection Report specifically identifies the violation as being applicable to Plant Vogtle Unit 1 by the violation designator "50-424/87-34-01." Accordingly, our response addresses only Plant Vogtle Unit 1.

In the enclosure, transcription of the NRC violation precedes GPC's response.

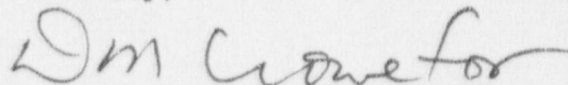
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
July 29, 1987  
Page Two

Should you have any questions in this regard, please contact this office at any time.

Sincerely,



L. T. Gucwa

JAE/lm

Enclosure:

1. Violation 87-34-01 and GPC Response

c: Georgia Power Company

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Dr. J. N. Grace, Regional Administrator  
Ms. M. A. Miller, Licensing Project Manager, NRR (2 copies)  
Mr. J. F. Rogge, Senior Resident Inspector-Operations, Vogtle

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Mr. D. Feig  
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0435m



ENCLOSURE

PLANT VOGTLE - UNIT 1  
NRC DOCKET 50-424  
OPERATING LICENSE NPF-68  
NRC NOTICE OF VIOLATION 87-34-01 AND GPC RESPONSE

VIOLATION 50-424/87-34-01:

"Technical Specification 6.7.1 requires the establishment, implementation and maintenance of written procedures for the control of releases of radioactive materials to the environment. Nuclear Operations Procedure 13201-01 "Gaseous Releases," in Step 4.1.4, requires the closure and tagging, with independent verification, of certain valves, including Valve No. 1-1902-U4-073.

Contrary to the above, at 6:00 a.m. (sic) on May 18, 1987, Valve No. 1-1902-U4-073 was found in a partially opened position during a controlled release of gases from Waste Gas Decay Tank 4, resulting in the inadvertent release to the environment of radioactive gases from Waste Gas Decay Tank 2.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement IV)."

RESPONSE TO VIOLATION 50-424/87-34-01:

Admission or denial of alleged violation:

Georgia Power Company (GPC) admits that the event did occur as stated in the Inspection Report. However, after careful review of the event and 10 CFR 2, Appendix C, Supplement IV, GPC believes that the severity level should be reclassified to a severity level V, "violations that have minor safety or environmental significance."

The inadvertent release was monitored through monitor RE-014, which did not alarm during the release. In addition, a sample (sample #2602-87) was obtained by the plant's chemistry department which substantiated that the release did not exceed Technical Specification allowable limits. It should also be noted that on page 4 of the Inspection Report it was stated that "No Technical Specification release rate limits or offsite dose commitments were exceeded as a result of the inadvertent release." Further, calculations have been performed which demonstrate that the projected radiation levels at the site boundary were well below the criteria specified in 10CFR2 Appendix C, Supplement IV, Paragraph D.2 for Severity Level IV violations.

Based on the foregoing information, GPC requests a downgrade in severity level to Severity Level V.

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ENCLOSURE (Continued)

NRC NOTICE OF VIOLATION 87-34-01 AND GPC RESPONSE

Reason for violation:

The release of Waste Gas Decay Tank #2 through valve 1-1902-U4-073 when a release of Waste Gas Decay Tank #4 was in progress was due to a partially open valve. Documentation is available that indicates valve 1-1902-U4-073 was closed and verified closed for the release on May 17, 1987. However, this type valve, i.e., a diaphragm valve connected to a reach rod through a clutch, may appear to be closed when in fact it is partially open. Specifically, if the clutch on the reach rod operator is not engaged when the valve handwheel is taken closed, the handwheel will respond as if the valve is closed, when in fact, the valve will not be closed.

The plant equipment operator (PEO) who positioned valve 1-1902-U4-073 was not aware of the valve/reach rod characteristic described above.

Corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved:

The subject valve was fully closed upon discovery of the partially open condition. In addition, Shift Qualifiers (i.e., expert personnel hired to train PEOs on the proper operation of plant equipment) briefed the operating crews on the proper method to open and close valves having reach rods. The PEO Basic Training Course now includes training on valves that are positioned using reach rods.

Corrective steps which will be taken to prevent recurrence:

Corrective actions which have already been taken and the administrative controls which already exist should prevent recurrence of this violation.

Date when full compliance will be achieved:

Full compliance was achieved with the proper closure of valve 1-1902-U4-073 on May 18, 1987.