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Vogtle Project

December 21, 1987

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC DOCKET NUMBER 50-425
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NUMBER CPPR-109
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT - UNIT 2
REMOVAL OF CONTROL ROOM TEMPORARY GYPSUM BOARD FIRE WALL

Gentlemen:

Unit 1 is protected from the fire hazards associated with Unit 2 construction activities through the existence of fire barriers, administrative controls, and fire protection capability in conformance with the guidelines defined by Branch Technical Position (BTP) CMEB 9.5-1. Section C.1.e(3).

For the period of Unit 1 operation and Unit 2 construction, the Unit 1 and Unit 2 control rooms are separated by two temporary walls, a steel wall on the Unit 1 side and a gypsum board fire wall on the Unit 2 side. The steel wall acts as a bullet-proof security boundary as well as a pressure boundary to maintain the positive pressure requirements within the Unit 1 control room relative to the adjacent areas. The gypsum board wall acts as a three-hour fire barrier between the two control rooms.

A continuous fire watch has been established in the Unit 2 main control room area (includes back panel locations) until the structural steel members required to support the control room ceiling fire barrier (common to the Unit 1 and 2 control rooms) are fire proofed.

In order to facilitate the completion of the Unit 2 control room, i.e., suspended ceiling installation and interconnection of HVAC ducts, the temporary vertical fire barrier must be removed. In addition, barrier removal at this time will preclude the possibility of a major schedule impact resulting from additional dust that could occur from the removal of 5 layers of gypsum board. The bullet-proof steel security barrier will remain in place until immediately prior to the Unit 2 control room area being placed under the administrative control of GPC Nuclear Operations. A temporary platform constructed of wood planks has been installed as shown on the sketch to accommodate ceiling installation and protect the benchboards from overhead activities. All other untreated wood scaffolding and platforms will be removed prior to the removal of the three-hour rated vertical barrier. The remaining platform is currently scheduled to be removed by June 1, 1988, prior to the removal of the security barrier wall.

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If additional scaffolding is required for construction activities, it will be constructed of fire retardant lumber, limited to an individual size of 72 sq. ft. and arranged such that hose stream discharge from the floor can still effectively reach the area above.

While the bullet-proof steel security barrier does not qualify as a rated three-hour fire barrier, it does present an obstruction to the propagation of flames should a fire occur.

The features listed below, in addition to the non-combustible security barrier, will preclude the remaining Unit 2 control room construction activities from compromising the safety of the Unit 1 control room. These features are:

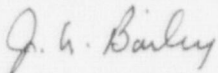
- ° The structural steel required to support the fire barrier ceiling common to the Unit 1 and 2 control rooms is protected with fire proofing.
- ° Except for the area crosshatched on the attached sketch, any wood brought into the Unit 2 control room area will be fire retardant.
- ° Each additional wood scaffolding will be limited to 72 square feet.
- ° A continuous fire watch will be in place until all untreated wood is removed.
- ° Nuclear Operations personnel are presently working in the Unit 2 control room 24 hours a day which increases the probability of early detection of a fire.
- ° Approximately 10 portable fire extinguishers (ABC rated) are in the room.
- ° Immediately adjacent to the control room entrance is a fire hose cabinet with 150 feet of hose (3-50 ft. lengths) capable of spraying all areas. Sufficient pressure is available to compensate for the additional hose length. The bullet-proof steel security barrier will keep water spray from damaging any components in the Unit 1 control room.
- ° Because of the positive pressure requirements on the Unit 1 control room and the seals necessary to achieve that pressure, the propagation of smoke from the Unit 2 control room to the Unit 1 control room is unlikely.

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During the Unit 1 control room pressurization test, sealing for air leaks was performed from the Unit 1 side, i.e., the steel wall side. Additionally, the gypsum board wall has numerous penetrations for seismic support of the pressure/security barrier which were closed only with mineral wool fiber and are not air-tight. Thus, although the gypsum board wall was installed at the time of the pressurization test, we believe it did not contribute to the effectiveness of the pressure boundary of the Unit 1 control room. This will be verified after the gypsum board wall is removed. Therefore, removal of the gypsum board wall will have no impact on the pressure boundary, the maintenance of the positive pressure requirements in the Unit 1 control room with respect to adjacent areas or Unit 1 control room habitability.

The schedule for removing the gypsum board fire wall is early January 1988. Therefore, should your staff have any concerns with the above actions, please contact us as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



J. A. Bailey
Project Licensing Manager

JAB/wk1
Attachment

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Vogtle Project File

TEMPORARY SECURITY
BARRIER

TEMPORARY FIRE
BARRIER

CONTROL BOARD PANEL

CONTROL BOARD PANEL

PANEL (TYP.)

PANEL (TYP.)

UNIT 1 CONTROL ROOM

UNIT 2 CONTROL ROOM

ELEV.

FIRE HOSE
STATION

WOOD PLANK PLATFORM

