March 3, 2010

Mr. Dennis R. Madison
Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
11028 Hatch Parkway North
Baxley, GA 31513

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000321/2010001 AND 05000366/2010001)

Dear Mr. Madison:

On February 9, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security Related Information" will include the Security Cornerstone performance review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Hatch Units 1 and 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance at Unit 1 and Unit 2 for the most recent quarter as well as the previous three quarters was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC’s Action Matrix based on a White inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone for the failure of the 1B emergency diesel generator coupling. A supplemental inspection was completed in November 18, 2009 for this White finding, the results of which are documented in NRC inspection report 05000321,366/2009009. No significant weaknesses were identified in the supplemental inspection.

Although plant performance was within the Regulatory Response column, the significance of the finding documented in NRC inspection report 05000321,366/2009005 for failure to establish and perform preventive maintenance activities to replace aged electrolytic capacitors is still under review as part of the Significance Determination Process which, when finalized, may change our assessment of your plant’s safety performance. For Unit 2, the performance deficiency led to failures of the emergency diesel generator (EDG) loss of offsite power (LOSP) circuits and a failure of the power supply for the main feedwater median level controller.
Based on plant performance over the cycle, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. We also plan on conducting, a triennial Fire Protection inspection, triennial Heat Sink inspection, triennial 50.59 Modifications inspection, temporary instruction (TI) 2515/173, “Industry Ground Water Protection Initiative,” TI 2515/180 “Inspection of Procedures and Processes for Managing Fatigue” and reactor operator licensing examinations.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2011. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC’s document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Scott Shaeffer at (404) 562-4521 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard D. Wert, Jr., Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-321, 50-366
License Nos.: DPR-57, NPF-5

Enclosure: Hatch Inspection/Activity Plan
cc w/encl:

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(cc w/encl: continued next page)
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Appling County Commissioners
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