March 4, 2014

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2 (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000321/2013001 AND 05000366/2013001)

Dear Mr. Vineyard:

On February 18, 2014, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Unit 1 and Unit 2. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1 through December 31, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC’s assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, Hatch Unit 1 and Unit 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Hatch Unit 1 and Unit 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC’s Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2015. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

The NRC also plans to conduct phase two of temporary instruction 2515/182 “Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks.” Additionally, an NRC audit of licensee efforts towards compliance with Order EA-12-049, “Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for
Beyond-Design-Basis External Events” is ongoing. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate mitigating strategies as described in licensee submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for the first unit at each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

As a result of the Safety Culture Common Language Initiative, the terminology and coding of cross-cutting aspects were revised. All cross-cutting aspects identified during inspections conducted in calendar year 2014 will reflect this revision to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0310. The calendar year (CY) 2013 end-of-cycle assessments were conducted using the IMC 0310 guidance in effect in CY 2013 (dated October 28, 2011). Cross-cutting aspects identified in 2013 using the 2013 terminology will be converted to the latest revision in accordance with the cross-reference in IMC 0310 during the mid-cycle assessment review and evaluated for cross-cutting themes and potential substantive cross-cutting issues in accordance with IMC 0305.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter will be 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/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 404-997-4611 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Frank Ehrhardt, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Hatch Inspection/Activity Plan
(03/01/2014 – 06/30/2015)

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(03/01/2014 – 06/30/2015)

cc distribution via Listserv
D. Vineyard

Letter to David R. Vineyard from Frank Ehrhardt dated March 4, 2014

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RIDSNRRDIRS
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure