

March 13, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager, Section 1 */RA/*  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING  
COMPANY TO DISCUSS HATCH 2 JUNE 1999 REACTOR TRIP

On March 2, 2000, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) met in Rockville, Maryland to discuss the June 15, 1999, reactor scram with subsequent equipment failures that occurred at Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear, Unit 2. The NRC had categorized this scram as a significant event and SNC requested this meeting to discuss this categorization. Attachment 1 is a list of the meeting attendees. The slides presented by SNC are available under ADAMS accession number ML003688442.

SNC presented a description of the event, stating that the operators correctly identified and quickly responded to the equipment problems and that nuclear safety was maintained throughout the event. SNC concluded that the event did not pose an actual or potential risk to the health and safety of the public.

SNC then presented the results of its probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) of the event. Based on the results of the PRA, SNC classified the event as a non-risk significant event and falling under a plant performance condition considered acceptable. The PRA results also fall into a band indicating that the appropriate NRC response is a Special Inspection Team (SIT) to investigate the event; in fact, the NRC did respond by sending an SIT to the site.

The staff explained that its criteria for categorizing events are risk-informed, not risk-based, and other factors are considered when events are categorized. One factor that led to the staff's categorization of the event as significant was that the event was a reactor scram with complications (in this case, multiple equipment failures). The staff also factored into its categorization of the event the risk posed by the event, which was small but warranted a Special Inspection Team. The staff concluded, after hearing SNC's presentation, that the staff would not change its initial decision and that the event would still be categorized as significant.

Docket No. 50-366

Attachment: List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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MEETING TO DISCUSS HATCH 2 JUNE 1999 REACTOR SCRAM

MARCH 2, 2000

MEETING ATTENDEES

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L. Marsh  
S. Minarque  
L. Olshan  
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