

April 11, 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attn: Document Control Desk - Mr. C.I. Grimes One White Flint Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Sir:

It is my understanding that Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) recently filed an application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requesting that the operating terms for Plant Hatch Units 1 and 2 be extended for an additional twenty years. I would like to express my support for this extension.

Since 1971 I have been actively involved in this community as a business owner and as a member of numerous civic organizations. I have had an opportunity in those capacities to observe the impact that Plant Hatch has had on this area starting with its initial construction. Not only does this plant contribute to our local economy by providing excellent jobs, generating tax revenue, purchasing from local businesses, etc. but it also has brought well educated people into our community who have given their time and talent to many worthwhile endeavors. Frankly, it would be hard to overestimate the positive value of Plant Hatch's role in our area.

We feel secure and well informed regarding the operation of this plant. I have known personally most of the top management at this facility over the years and have been impressed with their ethics and abilities. I fail to see any reason why the operation of this plant should not be extended.

I would be grateful for your consideration of my comments and hope that you will rule favorably on the above referenced application.

Sincerely,

John Ladson, III

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