

50-321/366

# Vidalia City Schools

301 Adams Street  
Vidalia, Georgia 30474

**Board of Education:**

Thomas "Buddy" West, *Chairman*  
Charles Mac Jordan, *Vice-Chairman*  
William E. Bedingfield, *Treasurer*  
Mary V. Sharpe, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Lisa Adams, *Parliamentarian*  
R. Tim Smith, *Secretary*

R. Tim Smith  
*Superintendent*  
912/537-3088  
Charles L. Cook  
*Deputy Superintendent*  
912/537-3362

April 13, 2000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: C. I. Grimes  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Grimes:

It has come to my attention that Plant E. I. Hatch has initiated procedures to extend its operating life by another 20 years. Please allow me to voice my wholehearted support for their effort. When I moved to Vidalia 20 years ago, Plant Hatch was relatively new and we considered it a "good neighbor." Since that time it has become an integral and necessary part of our community.

From an educational perspective, the plant serves as an invaluable resource for field trips for a wide variety of student populations. Elementary students visit Plant Hatch to learn about nuclear energy and the generation of electricity. High school students are welcomed by the scientists and engineers to study and observe a wide variety of processes and procedures. A high point of our physics classes is a visit to the simulator. Always, the students and staff are made to feel genuinely welcome. A number of engineers and other staff also serve as mentors to students in our schools.

Our community benefits from the well educated and forward thinking leadership many of the plant's employees provide. In past years, no less than four employees have served on our board of education. Many others serve our community through various civic, social, and religious organizations.

The economic impact of Plant Hatch plays a major role in keeping Vidalia and the surrounding area strong, vibrant, and growing. Its loss would have a devastating effect on our town, our schools, and our quality of life.

A083

**Page 2**  
**C. I. Grimes**  
**April 13, 2000**

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional support to the granting of a 20-year extension to the operating life of our nuclear plant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Tim Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "S".

R. Tim Smith  
Superintendent