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DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF APPLING COUNTY

501 West Parker Street • P.O. Box 720 • Baxley, Georgia 31515
(912) 367-7731 • FAX (912) 367-2073

April 25, 2000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20553

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing you in support of an application recently filed by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) requesting the operating terms for Plant Hatch Units 1 and 2 be extended for an additional twenty years.

Plant Hatch has been a vital part of the economy of Appling County and the surrounding area since its construction in the early seventies. Plant Hatch accounts for well over 50 percent of our tax base that enables our county to provide better services, have better facilities, and enjoy lower property tax rates than our neighboring counties. Plant Hatch tax revenues are most evident in our school system. Thanks to Plant Hatch we in Appling County have school facilities with the most modern and hi-tech equipment available, second to none for a community our size. Due to higher pay scales we are able to attract more and better qualified teachers, thus enabling our kids to be exposed to and receive a better education.

Plant Hatch is also our largest employer providing some 1,000 jobs at above average wages. Those folks put their pay checks back into our communities and we all know that means more business for all of us.

The plant Hatch family provides leadership, and contributes to our community in Church, School, Civic, Political and Charitable activities.

I have been here since the inception of Plant Hatch and have never heard of any concerns about the management and safety in the operating of the Plant. We have always been well informed.

It is obviously the denial of this application would have a traumatic impact on this rural South Georgia community.

In closing, let me thank you for your time and consideration and hopefully for a favorable review and determination.

Sincerely,

Dale Atkins

Dale Atkins
Executive Director

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