



April 28, 2000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Ladies and Gentlemen:

THE CITY OF BAXLEY

POST OFFICE BOX 290
282 EAST PARKER STREET
BAXLEY, GEORGIA 31515
912 367 8300
fax 912 367 8304

Mayor

STEVE RIGDON

Mayor Pro Tem

ESCO HALL, JR. DVM

Council Members

TIM VARNADORE

MICKEY BASS

BETTY C. LIVINGSTON

PAT WILLIAMS

EUGENE WALKER, JR.

City Manager

JEFF BAXLEY

City Clerk

JEAN W. SPELL

City Attorney

ALEX JOHNSON

Municipal Court Judge

E. PRESTON JOHNSON, JR.

As you are aware, Southern Nuclear Operating Company 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 am writing in strong support of this request, and to inform the commission that granting this extension would be viewed favorably by my office, our city, and the entire community.

Plant Hatch has been a vital part of the economy of this city and this area since its construction in the early seventies. It provides excellent jobs for many of our citizens and is the single most important component in the economic growth of the City of Baxley and Appling County.

Plant Hatch is one of the largest employers in our county and impacts greatly the quality of life in our community. Over 60% of the ad valorem taxes paid in Appling County come from Plant Hatch. Also, the refueling process as well as maintenance shutdowns positively impacts our sales tax revenues. Plant Hatch and its employees are very community minded and are active with our local Chamber of Commerce, Development Authority, Civic Groups, and Baxley Tree Fest.

We consider Plant Hatch to be a good neighbor, and feel that we are kept sufficiently informed of plant status and activities. We are impressed with the safety record of Hatch in the past and are confident of the management's ability to operate it safely in the future.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration as you begin the review process for this application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Baxley
City Manager

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