



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

June 20, 2000

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr.
Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION SCHEDULE - HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Sumner:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our plans for conducting a series of license renewal inspections at Plant Hatch. Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted an Application for a Renewed Operating License for Plant Hatch dated February 29, 2000, for NRC approval. The NRC staff is currently reviewing that application and as part of that review process, Region II plans to conduct a series of three inspections on Scoping and Screening, Aging Management Programs, and Open Items as part of our routine license renewal reviews. These inspections are described in our Manual Chapter 2516, Policy and Guidance for the License Renewal Inspection Programs, and Inspection Procedure 71002 License Renewal Inspection which are publicly available on the NRC web site.

These inspections will be team inspections including 5 - 7 NRC inspectors and will be lead by Mr. Caudle Julian of Region II. Mr. Julian discussed the inspection schedule on June 12, 2000, with Messrs. Charles Pierce and Ray Baker at the SNC corporate offices and Mr. Steve Tipps of the Hatch staff by phone on June 19, 2000. Region II goals are to conduct these inspections in an effective, efficient, and flexible manner to accomplish the established Hatch license renewal schedule, while minimizing impact on your plant operating staff. If your staff becomes aware of schedule changes that can better achieve these goals please bring them to our attention.

The first inspection is planned for approximately one week to begin September 11, 2000, at the SNC offices in Birmingham Alabama where the SNC license renewal staff and documentation is located. This inspection is to examine the implementation of your Scoping and Screening processes as described in your license renewal application (LRA). During that week we expect that a list of inspection tasks will emerge that must be accomplished at the Hatch plant. We plan to accomplish those inspection tasks, if needed, at the Hatch site during the week of September 18, 2000. We will continuously work with your staff to schedule those inspections.

The second inspection is planned for approximately two weeks in length and will examine the implementation of your Aging Management Programs (AMP) as described in your LRA. We plan to conduct the major portion of this inspection at the Hatch site during the weeks of February 26 and March 12, 2001. These dates were selected contingent on the expected February 2001, issuance of the NRC staff preliminary Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for license renewal. As described in our inspection procedures, portions of the AMP inspection include inspectors walking down a selected sample of plant systems and structures to examine them for aging effects. The list of sample selected plant systems and structures will be communicated to your staff well before the inspection dates. For efficiency, we request the support of the Hatch assigned System Engineer for the selected systems to accompany the

inspector during the walk down. However, some of the selected equipment we wish to inspect will be located in areas that are inaccessible during plant operation due to high radiation, high temperature, and other environmental conditions. Therefore, we would like to conduct walk downs of that selected equipment during your Unit 1 outage planned for October, 2000. We also request the support of your assigned System Engineers to accompany inspectors for those walk down of the selected equipment. We will work with your staff to schedule inspections to minimize the impact these NRC inspections might have on accomplishing your outage schedule.

The exact schedule for our third license renewal inspection has yet to be determined, but it will occur late in 2001 following issuance of the NRC staff final SER for license renewal. That inspection will examine your actions in response to any open items from the first two inspections, any open or confirmatory items identified in the SER, and issues identified in your annual update of your LRA. This third inspection may not be necessary if there are no such items. Plans for the third inspection will be communicated to you as soon as they are finalized.

We will continuously work with your staff to identify any efficiencies that can be achieved through changes to the inspection plan. If you have any questions, please contact Caudle Julian at (404-562-4603) or me at (404-562-4600).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles A. Casto, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-321, 50-366
License Nos. DPR-57, NPF-5

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SNC

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