

July 7, 2000

Ms. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien
7631 Dallas Highway
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

Dear Ms. Blockey-O'Brien:

Your petition of May 29, 2000, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, has been referred to me pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 2.206. You request that Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, be permanently shut down and that their licenses be permanently revoked. As the basis for your petition, you state that, in the event of a nuclear accident at Hatch: (1) the children in the Altahama school and the children in Appling County and in the surrounding counties may die or be damaged for life; (2) fast evacuation would be impossible; (3) the local fire and rescue facilities are ill-equipped to deal with the emergency; and (4) the containment is inadequate and may fail. You state that two events showed that there is a potential for catastrophe at Hatch: (1) the June 15, 1999, manual scram with subsequent multiple equipment failures, which was the subject of the July 20, 1999 Special Inspection Team Report; and (2) the January 26, 2000 event, which you call a loss-of-coolant accident, that was the subject of the February 28, 2000, Augmented Inspection Team Report.

You met with our Petition Review Board (PRB) on June 15, 2000, to discuss your petition. The results of that discussion have been considered in the PRB's determination regarding your request for immediate action and whether the petition meets the criteria for consideration under 10 CFR 2.206. The staff has concluded that your submittal does not meet the criteria for consideration under 10 CFR 2.206 because your submittal raises issues that already have been the subject of NRC staff review and evaluation, and the issues have been dispositioned.

Nevertheless, we will provide you responses to all of the issues raised in your petition. Some of your issues involve offsite emergency preparedness. Since the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has responsibility for such matters and they have already found the offsite emergency preparedness acceptable, we will ask FEMA to provide us with the detailed basis for their finding. Our target date for responding to you is October 31, 2000.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please call Leonard Olshan of my staff toll-free at 1-800-368-5642.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

cc: See next page

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Division of Licensing Project Management
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*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

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