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November 21, 2000

Docket No. 50-321

HL-6013

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant – Unit 1  
Licensee Event Report  
Failure of Two Contract Employees to  
Provide Complete Background Information

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 73, Appendix G, Southern Nuclear Operating Company is submitting the enclosed Licensee Event Report (LER) concerning failure of two contract employees to provide complete background information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis Sumner".

H. L. Sumner, Jr.

SMS/eb

Enclosure: LER 1-2000-S02

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Mr. P. H. Wells, Nuclear Plant General Manager  
SNC Document Management (R-Type A02.001)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.  
Mr. L. N. Olshan, Project Manager - Hatch

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II  
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator  
Mr. J. T. Munday, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch

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IE74

Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory information collection request: 50 hrs. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Forward comments regarding burden estimate to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0104), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a document used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

FACILITY NAME (1)  
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant - Unit 1

DOCKET NUMBER (2)  
05000-321

PAGE (3)  
1 OF 3

TITLE (4)  
Improper Access Granted Based Upon a Failure of Contract Employees to Provide Complete Background

| EVENT DATE (5) |     |      | LER NUMBER (6) |                   |                 | REPORT DATE (7) |     |      | OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8) |                           |
|----------------|-----|------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| MONTH          | DAY | YEAR | YEAR           | SEQUENTIAL NUMBER | REVISION NUMBER | MONTH           | DAY | YEAR | FACILITY NAME                 | DOCKET NUMBER(S)          |
| 10             | 25  | 2000 | 2000           | S02               | 0               | 11              | 21  | 2000 | Plant Hatch, Unit 2           | 05000-366                 |
|                |     |      |                |                   |                 |                 |     |      |                               | DOCKET NUMBER(S)<br>05000 |

| OPERATING MODE (9) | POWER LEVEL (10) | THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § : (Check one or more) (11) |                   |                  |   |
|--------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|---|
| 4                  | 0                | 20.2201(b)   | 20.2203(a)(2)(v)  | 50.73(a)(2)(i)   | 50.73(a)(2)(vii)                              |
|                    |                  | 20.2203(a)(1)  | 20.2203(a)(3)(i)  | 50.73(a)(2)(ii)  | 50.73(a)(2)(ix)                               |
|                    |                  | 20.2203(a)(2)(i)   | 20.2203(a)(3)(ii) | 50.73(a)(2)(iii) | X 73.71                                       |
|                    |                  | 20.2203(a)(2)(ii)  | 20.2203(a)(4)     | 50.73(a)(2)(iv)  | OTHER   |
|                    |                  | 20.2203(a)(2)(iii)   | 50.36(c)(1)       | 50.73(a)(2)(v)   | Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A |
|                    |                  | 20.2203(a)(2)(iv)  | 50.36(c)(2)       | 50.73(a)(2)(vii) |   |

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| NAME<br>Steven B. Tipps, Nuclear Safety and Compliance Manager, Hatch | TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)<br>(912) 367-7851 |
|---|--|

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

| CAUSE | SYSTEM | COMPONENT | MANUFACTURER | REPORTABLE TO EPIX | CAUSE | SYSTEM | COMPONENT | MANUFACTURER | REPORTABLE TO EPIX |
|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|-------|--------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|
|       |        |           |              |                    |       |        |           |              |                    |
|       |        |           |              |                    |       |        |           |              |                    |

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)

|  |   |    |  |                               |       |     |      |
|--|---|----|--|-------------------------------|-------|-----|------|
| YES<br>(If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE) | X | NO |  | EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15) | MONTH | DAY | YEAR |
|--|---|----|--|-------------------------------|-------|-----|------|

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-space typewritten lines) (16)

On 9/5/00, a contractor employee (Case A) and on 9/14/00, another contractor employee (Case B) were granted unescorted access to the protected area of the plant based, in part, on criminal history information submitted by both employees during the access authorization process. On 10/24/00, the results of Case A's criminal background investigation were received from the FBI and were determined to conflict with the information previously provided by the employee. On 10/26/00, the results of Case B's criminal background investigation were received from the FBI and were also determined to conflict with the information previously provided by the employee.

At the time of discovery (10/24/00), Case A was not on plant site. Security personnel took immediate action to deactivate the access cardkey to prevent future entry in the protected area. At the time of discovery (10/26/00), Case B was on site working per his regular work schedule. Case B's supervision was contacted, and he was escorted out of the protected areas and directed to a Security Office for an interview. Case B's access cardkey was deactivated to prevent future entry into the protected area. During interviews, Case A and Case B confirmed they had failed to list any prior criminal convictions on their pre-access criminal history records.

On 10/25/00, Security personnel determined the convictions contained in the FBI report for Case A, in total, would have prevented the employee from gaining unescorted access had the convictions been disclosed initially. On 10/30/00, Security personnel determined the convictions contained in the FBI report for Case B, in total, would have prevented the employee from gaining unescorted access had the convictions been disclosed initially.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**  
TEXT CONTINUATION

| FACILITY NAME (1)                     | DOCKET    | LER NUMBER (6) |                 |                 | PAGE (3) |
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|                                       |           | YEAR           | SEQUENTIAL YEAR | REVISION NUMBER |          |
| Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant - Unit 1 | 05000-321 | 2000           | -- S02          | -- 00           | 2 OF 3   |

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

PLANT AND SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION

General Electric - Boiling Water Reactor

DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

On 9/5/00, a contractor employee (Case A) and on 9/14/00, another contractor employee (Case B) were granted unescorted access to the protected area of the plant based, in part, on criminal history information submitted by both employees during the access authorization process. On 10/24/00, the results of Case A's criminal background investigation were received from the FBI and were determined to conflict with the information previously provided by the employee. On 10/26/00, the results of Case B's criminal background investigation were received from the FBI and were also determined to conflict with the information previously provided by the employee.

At the time of discovery (10/24/00), Case A was not on plant site per his regular work schedule. Security personnel took immediate action to deactivate his access cardkey to prevent future entry in the protected area. On 10/25/00, Case A returned to the plant site per his regular work schedule and was unable to gain access. Case A's supervision directed him to a Security Office to conduct an interview pertaining to his criminal history. During the interview with Security personnel, Case A confirmed he had failed to list any criminal convictions on his pre-access criminal history records.

At the time of discovery (10/26/00), Case B was on site working per his regular work schedule. Case B's supervision was contacted and he was escorted out of the protected areas and directed to a Security Office for an interview. Case B's access cardkey was deactivated to prevent future entry into the protected area. During the interview, Case B confirmed he had failed to list any prior criminal convictions on his pre-access criminal history records.

On 10/25/00, Security personnel determined the convictions contained in the FBI report for Case A, in total, would have prevented the employee from gaining unescorted access had the convictions been disclosed initially. On 10/30/00, Security personnel determined the convictions contained in the FBI report for Case B, in total, would have prevented the employee from gaining unescorted access had the convictions been disclosed initially. Both Case A and Case B represent reportable safeguards events per 10 CFR 73, Appendix G, requirements.

CAUSE OF EVENTS

The cause of both events was cognitive personnel error on the part of the contractor employees (Case A and Case B). Specifically, these individuals omitted prior criminal convictions from their criminal history records during the access authorization process.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)**  
TEXT CONTINUATION

| FACILITY NAME (1)                     | DOCKET    | LER NUMBER (6) |                 |                 | PAGE (3) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
|                                       |           | YEAR           | SEQUENTIAL YEAR | REVISION NUMBER |          |
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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

REPORTABILITY ANALYSIS AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT

These events are being reported in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 73, Appendix G, and the associated guidance published in Generic Letter 91-03. This report is administered in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 73.71.

The work histories of both Case A and Case B while these individuals were granted unescorted access and character statements by each employee's direct supervision indicate both Case A and Case B conducted themselves in a professional manner while employed at Plant Hatch and performed their work activities in good faith. Based upon these considerations, Southern Nuclear Operating Company believes neither plant safety nor the health and safety of the public were adversely affected as a result of these events.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The contractor employees involved (Case A and Case B) were denied access to the plant. Information regarding these events was entered into the Personnel Access Data System.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Failed Components: None
2. Previous Similar Events: None
3. Energy Industrial Identification System Code: Security System - IA