

June 19, 2001

Ms. Rita Kilpatrick  
Georgians for Clean Energy  
427 Moreland Avenue, NE, Suite 100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

SUBJECT: REPLY TO JUNE 9, 2000, LETTER CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR EDWIN I. HATCH  
NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

By letter dated June 9, 2000, you provided comments regarding the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for the license renewal for Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The new issues that you raised regarding vulnerability to hurricanes and wildfires have been forwarded to us for resolution.

Hurricanes are addressed in Section 2.3 of the "Safety Evaluation of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Unit 1," issued May 11, 1973, and Section 2.3 of the "Safety Evaluation Report related to operation of Edwin I. Hatch, Unit No. 2," (Unit 2 SER) issued June 1978. The discussion in the Unit 2 SER provides more detail and states that hurricanes and tropical storms moving from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean may produce rain and strong winds as they pass across the site, but that the distance from either coast helps to diminish the storm intensity as it might affect the site. The plant has been designed for winds in excess of 100 miles per hour which may be expected in the area every 100 years. Therefore, we conclude that the Hatch facility is adequately designed against hurricanes.

A report entitled, "Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Individual Plant Examination of External Events," was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory by letter dated January 26, 1996. Section 5.4 of this report states that, pursuant to the guidelines of NUREG-1407, "Procedural and Submittal Guidance for the Individual Plant Examination of External Events (IPEEE) for Severe Accident Vulnerabilities," June 1991, Hatch is not required to address several specific hazards, including external fires (forest fires, grass fires). NUREG-1407 refers to NUREG/CR-5042, Supplement 2, "Evaluation of External Hazards to Nuclear Power Plants in the United States," issued February 1989. Section 2.2.6 of NUREG/CR-5042, Supplement 2, states that because nuclear power plant sites are cleared of forests and brush during construction, external fires are considered only in the context of the loss-of-offsite power and station blackout. In a letter dated November 1, 1991, the NRC found that Hatch was adequately designed to withstand a station blackout, which includes a loss-of-offsite power and a loss-of-onsite AC (alternating current) power. Therefore, we conclude that the Hatch facility is adequately designed against wildfires.

Ms. Rita Kilpatrick

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We trust that this explanation is responsive to your concerns. Should you have any questions or comments on this response, please contact me toll-free at 1-800-368-5642.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Leonard N. Olshan, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
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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We trust that this explanation is responsive to your concerns. Should you have any questions or comments on this response, please contact me toll-free at 1-800-368-5642.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Leonard N. Olshan, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
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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Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant

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