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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rules Review and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Mailstop T 6 D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

65 FR 67418
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**RE: EPA Review and Comments on
Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) for
License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 4
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
NUREG 1437
Appling County, Georgia
CEQ No. 010206**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the document entitled "*Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants Regarding the Edwin I. Hatch Plant, Units 1 and 2, Final Report*". The purpose of this letter is to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with EPA's comments regarding concerns of potential impacts of the proposed renewal of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (Plant Hatch) Operating License.

Thank you for responding to our previous comments, regarding the Draft GEIS, in Appendix A of this FEIS. Based upon the information provided in the FGEIS, environmental concerns continue to exist for some aspects of the proposed project. Specifically, surface and groundwater use conflicts, which are characterized by NRC as small impacts (Chapter 4 of FGEIS), needs further clarification i.e., what is the definition of "small"? What is it compared to? etc.

Even though several of the concerns were addressed to varying degrees, EPA would like to see the sponsor and implementing agency be more proactive in their planning and implementation processes. This license renewal application is for an additional 20 years from the August 6, 2014 and June 13, 2018 expiration dates, which will extend through the time frames to August 6, 2034 and June 13, 2038, respectively. Since it is known that there will be new Safe Drinking Water Act regulations promulgated prior to the years 2034 and 2038 and possible other environmental

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add = A. Beranek (AFB)
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regulations and land use policies finalized, the sponsor and implementing agency should be taking into account the cumulative effort that will result from the enactment of these regulations and incorporating plans for addressing each of them. Subsequent site specific or programmatic EIS supplement(s) should include this information.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this FGEIS. If you have any questions or require more information please contact Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heinz Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
Office of Environmental Assessment