



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

May 31, 2001

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

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-321/2001-01 AND 50-366/2001-01)**

Dear Mr. Sumner:

On April 30, 2001, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Hatch Nuclear Plant. The end-of-cycle review for Hatch involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period of April 2, 2000, to March 31, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Hatch operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct baseline inspections at your facility through May 31, 2002. Additionally, we plan to conduct the remaining license renewal inspections and continue to conduct inspections associated with your Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility.

The enclosed inspection plan details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. This inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year (CY). In order to transition to a CY cycle (January 1 - December 31), the current inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e. the second, third and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, for this transition period, the number of inspection activities have been modified accordingly and a mid-cycle review letter and accompanying inspection plan will not be issued.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change our inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4520 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen J. Cahill , Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Inspection Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

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