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Docket No. 50-321

HL-6116

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant - Unit 1
Licensee Event Report
Inappropriately Authorized Person Enters Protected and Vital Areas

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 73.71(d), Southern Nuclear Operating Company is submitting the enclosed Licensee Event Report (LER) concerning an inappropriately authorized person that entered protected and vital areas.

Respectfully submitted,

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

H. L. Sumner, Jr.

DMC/eb

Enclosure: LER 50-321/2001-S01

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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JE74

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

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

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.

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

DOCKET NUMBER (2)
05000-321

PAGE (3)
1 OF 4

TITLE (4)
Inappropriately Authorized Person Enters Protected and Vital Areas

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)
07	19	2001	2001	S01	00	08	17	2001	Plant Hatch, Unit 2	05000366
										DOCKET NUMBER(S) 05000

OPERATING MODE (9)	POWER LEVEL (10)	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § : (Check one or more) (11)			
1	99.9	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2201(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(v)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(vii)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(3)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ix)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(3)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 73.71
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(4)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)	Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A
		<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(vii)	

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME Steven B. Tipps, Nuclear Safety and Compliance Manager, Hatch	TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (912) 367-7851
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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)				EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)		
YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO		MONTH	DAY	YEAR

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

On 07/19/2001 at 1420 EDT, Unit 1 was in the Run mode at a power level of approximately 2761 CMWT (99.9% rated thermal power), and Unit 2 was in the Run mode at a power level of 2760 CMWT (99.9% rated thermal power). At that time, plant personnel determined that a person had entered the plant protected area on 7/16/2001, 7/17/2001, 7/18/2001 and 7/19/2001. This person, a contract worker for the NRC, had entered the protected and vital areas for assisting the NRC with an inspection. Although the NRC contractor used the normal ingress point in the usual manner after being subjected to the typical search procedures, the NRC contractor had been granted unescorted access to the protected and vital areas without meeting the requirements of the access authorization program; that is, there was no indication that a background investigation had been performed prior to the NRC contractor entering these areas.

This event was the result of personnel error. The normal review by Nuclear Safety & Compliance personnel and the backup review by Security personnel failed to identify the access limitations contained in the NRC letters requesting personnel access. These letters from the NRC are reviewed prior to authorizing badges for personnel. Upon discovery of the error, the NRC contract worker's unescorted access was withdrawn. The action of the individuals are under review for further management action.

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TEXT CONTINUATION

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

PLANT AND SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION

General Electric - Boiling Water Reactor
Energy Industry Identification System codes appear in the text as (EIS Code XX).

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

On 07/19/2001 at 1420 EDT, Unit 1 was in the Run mode at a power level of approximately 2761 CMWT (99.9% rated thermal power), and Unit 2 was in the Run mode at a power level of 2760 CMWT (99.9% rated thermal power). At that time, plant personnel determined that a person had entered the plant protected area on 7/16/2001, 7/17/2001, 7/18/2001 and 7/19/2001. This person, a contract worker for the NRC, had entered the protected and vital areas for assisting the NRC with an inspection. Although the NRC contractor used the normal ingress point in the usual manner after being subjected to the typical search procedures, the NRC contractor had been granted unescorted access to the protected and vital areas without meeting the requirements of the access authorization program; that is, there was no indication that a background investigation had been performed prior to the NRC contractor entering these areas.

On 7/16/2001 the contractor entered at 0800 EDT, exiting at 1608 EDT. The NRC contractor re-entered the protected area at 1800 EDT and remained until 1828 EDT. The contractor again entered the plant protected area at 0817 EDT on 07/17/2001, exiting at 1717 EDT. On 7/18/2001 the contractor entered the plant protected area at 0650 EDT, exiting at 1035. The NRC contractor re-entered the protected area at 1635 and remained until 2140. On 7/19/2001 the NRC contractor entered the protected area at 08:14 EDT at 1415 the access authorization problem was identified to security at which time the worker's badge was disabled by the security computer system and the worker was formally escorted for the remainder of the inspection.

During the times the individual was in the protected area he was always in the immediate company of personnel which had authorized unescorted access to protected and vital areas. With the exception of a one hour time frame, the contractor was in the immediate company of two NRC employees both of which had authorized unescorted access to protected and vital areas. During that one hour (when he was not in the immediate company of the two NRC employees) the NRC contractor was on the refueling floor with other plant personnel all of whom were authorized unescorted access. This individual was observing ISFSI activities and did not indicate any actions that would lead one to believe he had any malevolent intent.

Two similar occurrences were found but were considered to be "partial failures" under the guidance of Generic Letter 91-03 and were logged for quarterly reporting to the NRC. One NRC contractor and one NRC employee were granted unescorted access when the NRC Personnel Access documentation recommended only escorted access to the vital and protected areas. In both cases the individuals had security clearance levels indicating prior background checks (including criminal records check) but had not completed the site access training.

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

CAUSE OF EVENT

This event was the result of cognitive personnel error. Nuclear Safety & Compliance (NS&C) confirms the identity of the individual requiring access authorization and forwards the badge authorization form to security who confirms the access limitations. The letter from the NRC requesting personnel access is reviewed prior to authorizing access by NS&C and Security personnel. Neither NS&C or Security personnel identified the access limitations contained in this letter.

REPORTABILITY ANALYSIS AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT

This event is reportable per 10 CFR 73.71(d) because an event occurred for which a one-hour telephone notification of a safeguards events was made to the NRC pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 73.71(b)(1). Such events are required by 10 CFR 73.71(d) to be reported in writing within thirty days. In this event, an inappropriately authorized person actually entered the plant protected and vital areas, an event listed in Appendix G to 10 CFR 73.71 and, therefore, required to be reported within one hour of discovery, followed by a written report within 30 days.

As required by 10 CFR 73.56, Plant Hatch maintains an access authorization program granting appropriate persons unescorted access to the protected and vital areas as necessary to perform needed work. The objective of the authorization program is to provide a high degree of assurance that persons granted unescorted access are trustworthy and reliable, and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of the public. The program consists of the elements described in and required by 10 CFR 73.56(b)(2).

In this event, an individual was granted unescorted access to the protected and vital areas without first successfully completing the access authorization program. This was the result of cognitive personnel error: The normal review by Nuclear Safety & Compliance personnel and the backup review by Security personnel failed to identify the access limitations contained in the NRC letters requesting personnel access. These letters from the NRC are reviewed prior to authorizing badges for personnel. The individual inappropriately granted unescorted access was unaware he was not authorized to enter the protected and vital areas. He accessed the protected and vital areas only after being subjected to the usual search procedures and, because of unfamiliarity with the site, was in the presence of a properly authorized person all of the time he was in the protected and vital areas.

Based upon the preceding information, it can be concluded that this event did not result in any degradation of the security of the protected and vital areas.

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

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Upon discovery of the error, security personnel verified the NRC contractor was not in the protected area and the inappropriately authorized contract worker's access was prevented. Specifically, the NRC contractor's badge was confiscated and destroyed. The NRC contractor was formally escorted for the remainder of the inspection.

The individuals whose actions resulted in the contract worker being granted unescorted access are in the Company's Positive Discipline Program.

A check of NRC requests for personnel access to the protected and vital areas was performed. Two similar occurrences were found but were considered to be "partial failures" under the guidance of Generic Letter 91-03 and were logged for quarterly reporting to the NRC. One NRC contractor and one NRC employee were granted unescorted access when the NRC Personnel Access documentation requested only escorted access to the vital and protected areas. In both cases the individuals had prior background checks (including criminal records check) but had not completed the site access training which may be waived in accordance with section 12.2 of the E.I. Hatch Physical Security Plan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other Systems Affected: No systems other than those already mentioned in this report were affected by this event.

Failed Components Information: No failed components caused or resulted from this event.

Commitment Information: This report does not create any permanent licensing commitments.

Previous Similar Events: There have been no previous similar events reported in the last two years in which an NRC request for personnel access resulted in an inappropriately authorized person entering the protected and vital areas.