

December 18, 2001

Dr. George E. Apostolakis, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL  
APPLICATION FOR THE EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Dr. Apostolakis:

Thank you for your letter to Chairman Meserve dated November 16, 2001, outlining the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) conclusions and recommendations regarding the Southern Nuclear Operating Company's (SNC's) application for license renewal of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Plant Hatch), and the staff's safety evaluation report. The staff appreciates that the ACRS devoted significant effort to reviewing the details of these documents.

In addition to recommending that the Plant Hatch license renewal application be approved, the ACRS also recommended that the staff positions on non-safety-related seismic II-over-I piping systems, long-lived passive components associated with skid-mounted complex assemblies, and housings for active components be incorporated into the generic license renewal guidance documents.

The staff agrees that these positions should be incorporated into the license renewal guidance documents. Positions developed as a result of the staff's review of license renewal applications are subject to the staff's lessons-learned process. This process requires that proposed staff positions be issued to stakeholders for comment. The final staff positions will reflect the stakeholders' comments and will be incorporated into the license renewal guidance documents at the next update, as described in our December 22, 2000, response to the ACRS.

The proposed staff positions on the items identified above are currently being finalized for issuance to stakeholders.

G. Apostolakis

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We appreciate the Committee's support of the license renewal program. Please let me know if the Committee has any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
SECY

G. Apostolakis

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