



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

November 18, 2003

EA-03-207

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

**SUBJECT: EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT - RESPONSE TO INSPECTION REPORT
05000321/2003006 AND 05000366/2003006**

Dear Mr. Sumner:

Thank you for your response dated October 1, 2003, to our Triennial Fire Protection Inspection Report 05000321/2003006 and 05000366/2003006, dated September 1, 2003. In your response, you requested that we withdraw Non-Cited Violation (NCV) 50-366/03-06-03, Inadequate Procedure for Local Manual Operator Action for Post-Fire SSD Equipment, and NCV 50-366/03-06-04, Unapproved Manual Operator Actions for Post-Fire SSD. In addition, you requested that we close the unresolved items (URIs) contained in the report.

In response to your request that we withdraw NCV 50-366/03-06-03, we conducted an additional review of the actions necessary for local manual operation of Valve 2E11-F015A. This included an onsite inspection to observe an operator simulate local manual operation of the valve, as well as a review of supporting procedures. We noted from the simulation, that the assigned operator was able to safely position himself so as to be able to operate the valve while complying with all Plant Hatch requirements for individual safety and radiological protection. However, this position was different than the position that was previously shown by one of your operators to our inspection team, described in our inspection report, and described in your letter of October 1, 2003. Nonetheless, we have concluded that operators, in general, reasonably will be able to accomplish the required actions. This is because local manual operation of this valve is required for cold shutdown and ample additional time would be available to compensate for the impacts from the environmental conditions and any physical constraints. If necessary, this could include providing additional time to assign other operators to assist in opening the valve or allowing the assigned operator time to rest. Further, we noted that your personnel safety procedures provide adequate guidance to minimize the likelihood of personnel injury in the event that the assigned operator lost his footing while operating the valve. Hence, the NRC concluded that no special additional procedure or preparations were required to support local manual operation of Valve 2E11-F015A. NCV 50-366/03-06-03 is withdrawn.

We are still reviewing the additional information that you provided in response to NCV 50-366/03-06-04. We will advise you of our decision regarding this NCV when our review is complete.

We have also begun our review of your request to close the URIs. To this end, we have held some discussions with your staff and requested additional information. When we have completed our review, we will inform you of our decision.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 562-4605.

Sincerely,

/RA James H. Moorman for:/

Charles R. Ogle, Chief
Engineering Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

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

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