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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant  
Revised Schedule for Generic Letter 2003-01  
Control Room Habitability

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated August 4, 2003, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a proposed alternative course of action, including a schedule and associated justification, for developing responses to Generic Letter (GL) 2003-01, "Control Room Habitability," information requests. This letter revises the submitted alternative schedule for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP). The schedules provided in the referenced August 4, 2003 SNC letter for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant and the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant remain unchanged.

Specifically, SNC is revising the HNP schedule for completing ASTM E741 testing. SNC now plans to complete tracer gas testing by December 31, 2004, instead of June 30, 2004 as stated in the SNC August 4, 2003 letter. Within 90 days after completion of the HNP tracer gas testing, consistent with the SNC August 4, 2004 letter, SNC will submit a schedule for the remaining activities determined to be necessary to provide the information requested by GL 2003-01.

Notwithstanding ongoing analysis and control room boundary maintenance to support the original testing schedule, SNC has recently determined that several factors justify the revised schedule. These factors include the complexity of HNP control room boundary maintenance due to the control room location, continuing NEI/NRC interaction regarding use of the GL 91-18 process and alternative source term (AST) in the context of control room habitability, and test vendor availability.

In addition, SNC intends to submit a license amendment request supporting full scope implementation of an AST in accordance with Regulatory Guide 1.183 for NRC review no later than August 31, 2004. The revised tracer gas testing schedule will support submittal of the most limiting measured unfiltered inleakage within the NRC's expected AST review period, confirming the bounding nature of the unfiltered inleakage value assumed for the AST.

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This letter contains no NRC commitments. If you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,



H. L. Sumner, Jr.

HLS/CLT/daj

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr., Executive Vice President  
Mr. G. R. Frederick, General Manager – Plant Hatch  
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator  
Mr. C. Gratton, NRR Project Manager – Hatch  
Mr. D. S. Simpkins, Senior Resident Inspector – Hatch