

July 22, 2004

Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr.
Vice President - Nuclear
Hatch Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: DEFERRAL OF REVIEW OF LICENSING ACTION FOR EDWIN I. HATCH
NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MC0667 AND MC0668)

Dear Mr. Sumner:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review of your request dated September 2, 2003, to allow in-vessel fuel movements with the refueling interlocks inoperable is being deferred until the beginning of fiscal year 2005 that starts October 1, 2004. This request involves the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The NRC is deferring review of this action to support the review of security plan, safeguard contingency, and security personnel training and qualification plan changes, required by an April 29, 2003, Commission Order. I have discussed the deferral of this action with Mr. Vidal of your staff.

Please have a member of your staff inform me if circumstances change with regard to the impact on your ability to safely operate your facility as a result of the deferral of this action. I can be contacted at 301-415-1055.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

cc: See next page

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Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant

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