

September 9, 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: RESPONSE TO REQUEST TO REVISE REGULATORY GUIDE 1.190  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Dear Mr. Sumner:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request to revise the schedule for meeting Southern Nuclear Operating Company's commitment to begin using a reactor pressure vessel neutron fluence methodology that is compliant with Regulatory Guide 1.190 by December 15, 2004. You requested that the commitment dated be extended until July 31, 2007. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, in its March 2003 safety evaluation report, found the current Edwin I. Hatch, Units 1 and 2, pressure-temperature (PT) curves acceptable through December 31, 2004. The current PT limits are estimated for 54 effective full power years (EFPY). The projected reactor vessel irradiation through July 31, 2007, will be 21 and 19 EFPY for Units 1 and 2, respectively. Therefore, there is a safety margin of approximately 2 through the end of the requested schedule extension. The NRC staff finds this margin adequate for the purpose of extending the commitment schedule. Therefore, the NRC concludes that the proposed commitment schedule change is acceptable.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1055.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Christopher Gratton, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II, Section I  
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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Dear Mr. Sumner:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request to revise the schedule for meeting Southern Nuclear Operating Company's commitment to begin using a reactor pressure vessel neutron fluence methodology that is compliant with Regulatory Guide 1.190 by December 15, 2004. You requested that the commitment dated be extended until July 31, 2007. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, in its March 2003 safety evaluation report, found the current Edwin I. Hatch, Units 1 and 2, pressure-temperature (PT) curves acceptable through December 31, 2004. The current PT limits are estimated for 54 effective full power years (EFPY). The projected reactor vessel irradiation through July 31, 2007, will be 21 and 19 EFPY for Units 1 and 2, respectively. Therefore, there is a safety margin of approximately 2 through the end of the requested schedule extension. The NRC staff finds this margin adequate for the purpose of extending the commitment schedule. Therefore, the NRC concludes that the proposed commitment schedule change is acceptable.

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IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Dated: September 9, 2004

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