

H. L. Sumner, Jr.
Vice President
Hatch Project

Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201
Tel 205.992.7279

May 10, 2005



Energy to Serve Your WorldSM

Docket No.: 50-321

NL-05-0851

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Notice of Partial Implementation of BWRVIP-18-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project
Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines"

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On March 30, 2005 the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) transmitted BWRVIP-18-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines" (Enclosure 1) to the NRC. Pursuant to previous agreements with the BWRVIP (Enclosures 2 & 3), participating licensees will notify the staff of a decision by the licensee to not fully implement the approved guidance within 45 days of guidance receipt. Plant Hatch Unit 1 will partially implement the subject guidance with respect to certain welds on the Core Spray sparger.

BWRVIP-18-A requires periodic examination of core spray sparger welds. For Hatch Unit 1, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) cannot perform examinations of two of the welds (welds 57 & 58, see sketch 1BN-7-7, Enclosure 4) as specified due to a repair clamp that replaced one sparger weld (weld 55) in 1984 (see Drawing S15486, Enclosure 6). The clamp partially obstructs two adjacent welds such that the full examination specified by the guidelines cannot be accomplished. The two (2) welds and clamp are examined at the specified frequency and the remaining nine comparable welds are fully examined as specified by BWRVIP-18-A.

A technical justification for deviating from inspection guidance was prepared in accordance with the guidance of BWRVIP-94 and sent to the BWRVIP (Enclosure 5). This guidance provides assurance that there are no safety implications or reliability concerns with the deviation.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. L. Sumner, Jr." Below the signature is the printed name "H. L. Sumner, Jr." in a standard sans-serif font.

HLS/PAH/daj

A001

Enclosures:

1. Letter 2005-152 Dated March 30, 2005, from William A. Eaton, Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project, to NRC Document Control Desk (Attention: Meena Khanna), Transmitting Project 704, BWRVIP-18-A; BWR Core Spray and Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines
2. Letter 97-461 Dated May 30, 1997, from Carl Terry, Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project to NRC Document Control Desk (Attention: Brian Sheron), Reaffirming the BWR Utility Commitments to the Goals, Objectives, and Products of the BWR Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP)
3. Letter 97-870 Dated October 30, 1997, from Carl Terry, Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project to NRC Document Control Desk (Attention: Brian Sheron), to Clarify the BWRVIP Utilities Understanding of the Expectations of the NRC Staff Regarding Implementation of BWRVIP Products
4. Sketch 1-BN-7-7
5. Letter MI-05-0168 Dated, January 26, 2005 from Mr. Jeff A. Williams, SNC Materials and Inspection Services Manager, to Mr. Thomas J. Mulford, EPRI, Which has as an Attachment the Technical Justification for Deviating from Inspection Guidance Provided in BWRVIP-18
6. Drawing S15486

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President
Mr. G. R. Frederick, General Manager – Plant Hatch
RTYPE: CHA02.004

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dr. W. D. Travers, Regional Administrator
Mr. C. Gratton, NRR Project Manager – Hatch
Mr. D. S. Simpkins, Senior Resident Inspector – Hatch