

December 23, 2005

LICENSEE: Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
FACILITY: Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 29, 2005, MEETING WITH
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC., ON ITS RESPONSE
TO GENERIC LETTER 2003-01, "CONTROL ROOM HABITABILITY" (TAC
NOS. MB9810 AND MB9811)

On November 29, 2005, a Category 1 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and representatives of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (Southern Nuclear, the licensee), at NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the licensee's response to Generic Letter (GL) 2003-01, "Control Room Habitability," specifically, the licensee's plan to conduct tracer gas testing at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (Hatch), and the subsequent application to use the alternate source term (AST). A list of attendees is provided as Enclosure 1.

The purpose of the meeting was to have the licensee present its plan to perform tracer gas testing in support of GL 2003-01. The licensee had cancelled previous plans to perform tracer gas testing, concerned that any detected control room inleakage detected by the tracer gas testing would force a reactor shutdown (Hatch's current licensing basis assumes a 0 cubic-feet-per-minute control room inleakage rate). Details of the licensee's concerns are contained in a letter dated October 27, 2004 (NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accession number ML043030315).

The licensee presented background information and generally discussed the regulatory path that it planned to follow to provide the NRC staff with the information it requested in GL 2003-01 (See ADAMS accession number ML053350246 for the licensee's handouts distributed at this meeting). The licensee also discussed its plans for submitting an AST amendment application. The licensee discussed its plans to issue a licensing basis change that allows the crediting of potassium iodide (KI) to meet the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Appendix A, General Design Criteria 19, "Control Room." The licensee considers the KI amendment an interim action that would bridge the period between issuance and the approval of the AST amendment. The licensee is currently expediting the preparation of the KI amendment and its plan to perform tracer gas testing. The licensee planned to issue the amendment application before the end of December 2005. The licensee also requested that the NRC staff review be expedited so that the tracer gas testing could be completed before June, due to the effects of the high summer temperatures on the tracer gas testing equipment.

The licensee and NRC staff also discussed the licensee's plans for submitting an AST amendment. The methods the licensee plans to use to seek approval for its AST amendment, including key technical specification changes and the mitigating features the licensee credits in their operability determination for the KI amendment, were also discussed.

The NRC staff had several questions regarding the acceptability of the mitigating features and cautioned the licensee that reliance in these features would require a first-of-a-kind evaluation by the NRC staff. The mitigating features used in the analysis were credited in both the KI amendment and the follow-up AST amendment. Briefly, the NRC staff expressed concerns about the licensee's analysis in the following areas:

- Seismic verification of turbine building ductwork
- Deposition of secondary containment bypass in the condenser, and
- Credit of nonsafety-related turbine building supply and exhaust fans

The NRC also requested that the licensee consider specifying, as part of its KI application, the actions to be taken in the event significant inleakage (e.g., inleakage in excess of that assumed in the licensee's draft operability determination discussed during this public meeting) is detected during the tracer gas testing.

The meeting concluded with the licensee and NRC staff agreeing that the two parties needed to work closely together to meet the target of testing the control room before the summer of 2006.

The NRC staff agreed to review the licensee's plan in an expedited manner and provide the licensee additional feedback, if necessary, regarding the content needed in their KI application to minimize the number of questions needed by the NRC staff to complete its review.

Members of the public were not in attendance. Public Meeting Feedback forms were not received.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1055, or CXG1@nrc.gov.

/RA/

Christopher Gratton
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

Enclosure: List of Attendees

cc w/encls: See next page

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