UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 2, 2006

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. H. L. Sumner
Vice President - Hatch Project
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000321/2006001 AND 05000366/2006001)

Dear Mr. Sumner:

On February 7, 2006, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2005. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter, designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security-Related Information," will include the physical protection performance review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Hatch Units 1 and 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix. We base this conclusion on a White finding in the Emergency Preparedness cornerstone.

On February 2, 2006, we completed the supplemental inspection (Inspection Procedure 95001) to review the actions taken for removal of the Technical Support Center for greater than seven days without prior NRC approval and found your investigation and corrective actions to be adequate. We also held the Regulatory Performance Meeting on February 2, 2006, completing all the NRC Action Matrix requirements for this finding. Based on the results of the supplemental inspection, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. We also plan on conducting a non-ROP inspection of the independent spent fuel storage installation.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2007. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative

and may be revised at the mid-cycle review. Although our intent is to maintain the enclosed inspection plan fixed for the first nine months, a need may arise to conduct one or more unanticipated inspections prior to issuing an updated inspection plan with the 2006 assessment cycle mid-cycle letter. If an inspection of this type becomes necessary, we will notify you of the planned inspection dates as soon as possible to resolve, as much as we can, any scheduling and personnel availability conflicts you may have.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at *http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html* (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Curtis Rapp at (404) 562-4674 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles A. Casto, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-321, 50-366, 72-36
License Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5

Enclosure: Hatch Inspection/ Activity Plan

cc w/encl:
J. T. Gasser
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

George R. Frederick
General Manager, Plant Hatch
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Raymond D. Baker
Manager Licensing - Hatch
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Arthur H. Domby, Esq.
Troutman Sanders
Electronic Mail Distribution

Laurence Bergen
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Bentina C. Terry
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Bin B-022
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Director
Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, SE, Suite 1252
Atlanta, GA 30334

Manager, Radioactive Materials Program
Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Chairman
Appling County Commissioners
69 Tippins St., Suite 201
Baxley, GA 31513

Resident Manager
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Senior Engineer - Power Supply
Municipal Electric Authority
of Georgia
Electronic Mail Distribution

Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Distribution w/encl: (See page 4)

Distribution w/encl:
C. Gratton, NRR
L. Slack, RII EICS
RIDSNRRDIPMLIPB
RIDSNRRDIRSLPAB
INPO
PUBLIC

☐ PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ☐ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ☐ SENSITIVE ☐ NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: ☐ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER:_____

OFFICE	RII:DRP						
SIGNATURE							
NAME	CRapp:rcm						
DATE	3/01/2006	3/ /2006	3/ /2006	3/ /2006	3/ /2006	3/ /2006	3/ /2006
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: E:\Filenet\ML060610430.wpd