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January 31, 2008

Docket No.: 50-321

NL-08-0150

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Response to NRC Request Regarding Modification of the
Core Shroud Stabilizer Assemblies

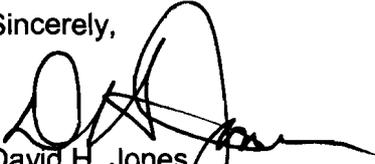
Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated August 14, 2007 pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) requested NRC approval of a proposed modification to each of the four core shroud stabilizer assemblies. During the upcoming 2008 Refueling Outage (1RFO23), SNC proposes to replace the Hatch Unit 1 stabilizer assembly upper supports and tie rod top nuts with an improved design. By letter dated November 29, 2007 the NRC requested additional information regarding this submittal. By letter dated December 18, 2007 SNC provided responses to these questions. Per telephone conversation on January 29, 2008 the NRC requested additional information. The SNC responses were provided in a letter dated January 30, 2008. Per telephone conversation on January 31, 2008 the NRC requested the inclusion of the proposed augmented inspection with the alternative request as described below.

The core shroud stabilizers are not included under the ASME Code Section XI definition for repair or replacement. As such, the design details of the proposed modification and the proposed augmented inspection requirements are being submitted to the NRC for review and approval as an alternative repair pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i). The original submittal, dated August 14, 2007 contains the basis for concluding that the design modification provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. The details of the proposed augmented inspection requirements are described in Enclosure 2 of the SNC letter dated January 30, 2008 and supplement the inspection requirements described in Enclosure 1, Section 7.2 of the August 14, 2007 submittal.

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

Sincerely,



David H. Jones
Vice President – Engineering

DHJ/MNW/daj

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President
Mr. D. R. Madison, Vice President – Hatch
RTYPE: CHA02.004

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. V. M. McCree, Acting Regional Administrator
Mr. R. E. Martin, NRR Project Manager – Hatch
Mr. J. A. Hickey, Senior Resident Inspector – Hatch