

May 30, 2008

Mr. Dennis R. Madison  
Vice President - Hatch  
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant  
11028 Hatch Parkway North  
Baxley, GA 31513

SUBJECT: EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2, REQUEST FOR  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING ALTERNATE SOURCE TERM  
APPLICATION (TAC NOS. MD2934 AND MD2935)

Dear Mr. Madison:

By letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated August 29, 2006, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC, the licensee), proposed to revise the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 licensing and design-basis with a full scope implementation of an alternative source term. The NRC staff reviewed SNC's letter dated February 27, 2008 and identified a need for additional information as set forth in the Enclosure.

The NRC staff discussed the above-referenced issue with SNC's staff on May 29, 2008. In consideration of the previous correspondence on this issue, and the schedular issues as addressed in the NRC staff's letter of January 30, 2008, we are requesting that SNC provide a response to this letter within fifteen (15) days, if possible, but no later than thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

Enclosure:  
Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2  
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC.  
DOCKET NOS. 50-321 AND 50-366  
OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-57 AND NPF-5

In a request for additional information dated April 26, 2007, concerning the implementation of an Alternative Source Term application; the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff asked whether Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) considered adding a Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) to the Technical Specifications (TS) for the turbine building ventilation system (TBVS), including surveillance requirements (SR). SNC's reply dated February 27, 2008, stated that:

"SNC intends to add the TB HVAC exhaust systems to the scope of the HNP Maintenance Rule program, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.65, and to the scope of license renewal, in accordance with 10 CFR 54.37(b)." and

"After due consideration, SNC has concluded that the addition to HNP TS of a LCO, including surveillance requirements, to assure "the lowest functional capability or performance levels," as stated in 10 CFR 50.36 titled "Technical Specifications," is not warranted for the new credited function of the TB HVAC exhaust systems. Contrary to the vast majority of safety functions in the TS, the capability to perform the Alternative Source Term credited function of purging the turbine building is demonstrated continuously during Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant operation."

As discussed with SNC staff on May 29, 2008, the NRC staff requests that SNC provide a detailed evaluation of whether the TBVS is equipment required for safe operation of the facility as required by 10 CFR 50.36(d)(2)(ii)(C), Criterion 3, "A structure, system or component that is part of the primary success path and which functions or actuates to mitigate a design-basis accident or transient that either assumes the failure of or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier," or 10 CFR 50.36(d)(2)(ii)(D), Criterion 4, "A structure system, or component which operating experience or probabilistic risk assessment has shown to be significant to public health and safety" and therefore requires a limiting condition for operation.

The NRC staff may pursue, in the future as needed, further details on the addition of the TB HVAC exhaust systems to the scope of the HNP Maintenance Rule program.

Enclosure

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 & 2

cc:

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