



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 15, 2010

Mr. Mark Ajluni  
Manager, Nuclear Licensing  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company Inc.  
40 Inverness Parkway  
P.O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (TAC  
NOS. ME2542 AND ME2543)

Dear Mr. Ajluni:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for an exemption dated November 6, 2009 as supplemented November 20, 2009. The proposed exemption for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, would extend the implementation deadline from March 31, 2010, to December 6, 2010, for a certain requirement in Part 73 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna N. Wright", written in a cursive style.

Donna N. Wright, 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:  
Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC.  
DOCKET NOS. 50-321 AND 50-366  
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an Exemption, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 73.5, "Specific exemptions," from the implementation date for a certain new requirement of 10 CFR Part 73, "Physical protection of plants and materials," for Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, issued to Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC, the licensee), for operation of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (HNP), located in Appling County, Georgia. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC prepared an environmental assessment documenting its finding. The NRC concluded that the proposed actions will have no significant environmental impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would exempt HNP from the required implementation date of March 31, 2010, for a certain new requirement of 10 CFR Part 73. Specifically, HNP would be granted an exemption from being in full compliance with a certain new requirement contained in 10 CFR 73.55 by the March 31, 2010, deadline. SNC has proposed an alternate full compliance implementation date of December 6, 2010, approximately 8 months beyond the date required by 10 CFR Part 73. The proposed action, an extension of the schedule for completion of certain

actions required by the revised 10 CFR Part 73, does not involve any physical changes to the reactor, fuel, plant structures, support structures, water, or land at the HNP site.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated November 6, 2009, as supplemented by letter dated November 20, 2009.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to provide the licensee with additional time to perform upgrades to the HNP security system due to procurement, resource, and logistical impacts, including the spring 2010 Unit 1 refueling outage and other factors.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its environmental assessment of the proposed exemption. The staff has concluded that the proposed action to extend the implementation deadline would not significantly affect plant safety and would not have a significant adverse effect on the probability of an accident occurring.

The proposed action would not result in an increased radiological hazard beyond those previously analyzed in the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact made by the Commission in promulgating its revisions to 10 CFR Part 73 as discussed in a *Federal Register* notice dated March 27, 2009 (74 FR 13967). There will be no change to radioactive effluents that affect radiation exposures to plant workers and members of the public. Therefore, no changes or different types of radiological impacts are expected as a result of the proposed exemption.

The proposed action does not result in changes to land use or water use, or result in changes to the quality or quantity of non-radiological effluents. No changes to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit are needed. No effects on the aquatic or terrestrial habitat in the vicinity of the plant, or to threatened, endangered, or protected species

under the Endangered Species Act, or impacts to essential fish habitat covered by the Magnuson-Steven's Act are expected. There are no impacts to the air or ambient air quality.

There are no impacts to historical and cultural resources. There would be no impact to socioeconomic resources. Therefore, no changes to or different types of non-radiological environmental impacts are expected as a result of the proposed exemption.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. In addition, in promulgating its revisions to 10 CFR Part 73, the Commission prepared an environmental assessment and published a finding of no significant impact [Part 73, Power Reactor Security Requirements, 74 FR 13926, 13967 (March 27, 2009)].

The licensee currently maintains a security program acceptable to the NRC and the new 10 CFR Part 73 security measures that will be implemented by March 31, 2010, will continue to provide acceptable physical protection of the HNP. Therefore, the extension of the implementation date for the specified new requirement of 10 CFR Part 73, to December 6, 2010, would not have any significant environmental impacts.

The NRC staff's safety evaluation will be provided in the exemption that will be issued as part of the letter to the licensee approving the exemption to the regulation, if granted.

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the exemption request would result in no change in current environmental impacts. If the proposed action was denied, the licensee would have to comply with the March 31, 2010, implementation deadline. The environmental impacts of the proposed exemption and the "no action" alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

The action does not involve the use of any different resources than those considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the HNP, dated October 1972, as supplemented through the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants: Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 - Final Report (NUREG - 1437, Supplement 4)."

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on January 5, 2010, the NRC staff consulted with the Georgia State official, Mr. Jim Hardeman of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

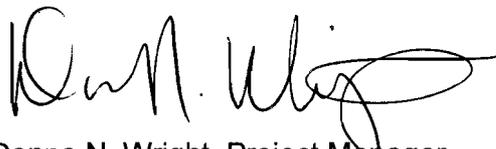
On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated November 6, 2009, as supplemented by letter dated November 20, 2009. Portions of the submittals contain proprietary and security information and, accordingly, are not available to the public pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390. The public documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O-1F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland 20852. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Website: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or send an e-mail to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna N. Wright", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Donna N. Wright, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Donna N. Wright, Project Manager  
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Enclosure:

Environmental Assessment

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