



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

September 11, 2012

Mr. M. J. Ajluni
Nuclear Licensing Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295, Bin - 038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (TAC NOS. ME9004, ME9005)

Dear Mr. Ajluni:

By letter dated July 5, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12188A721, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC or the licensee), submitted a license amendment request to change the Technical Specification to revise the minimum water level in the plant service water pump well. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff finds that additional information is needed as set forth in the Enclosure.

Please provide the additional information within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Martin".

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, 50-366

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (HNP)

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY (SNC)

1. Please describe any alternatives considered for the proposed license amendment request (LAR) to revise the minimum water level referenced in Technical Specification Surveillance Requirements associated with the plant service water (PSW) system.
2. In 2004, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff (staff) prepared a revised biological assessment (ADAMS No. ML041910254) on the operational effects of the HNP on the endangered shortnose sturgeon, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurred in 2005. Section 3.3, Environmental Evaluation, of the LAR does not specifically address the effects on endangered species. Please summarize any assessments conducted to address the effects on endangered species in general, and on the shortnose sturgeon, in particular. Please clearly cite any documents or studies used to support the assessment.
3. As described on page E1-12 of the LAR, please provide the report and results documenting the modeling study that was performed to assess the potential environmental impacts of continuing plant operations down to a river level of 60.5 feet mean sea level (ft MSL).
4. The last paragraph on page E1-12 of the LAR submittal states that: "The calculated intake through-screen velocity at the 60.5 ft MSL river elevation is 0.12 feet per second (fps) higher than the calculated velocity at the 60.7 ft MSL river elevation." Please provide the through screen velocity at the 60.7 ft MSL river elevation that was used for the above comparison.
5. On page E1-13 of the LAR, the applicant states that it did not observe any evidence of a significant change in impingement or entrainment during the drought period experienced in the Altamaha drainage basin during 2007 and 2008. Please provide data on the amount of impingement and entrainment during the drought period as compared to a non-drought period that led the applicant to the cited conclusion. In addition, provide data, if available, on the through-screen velocity during the drought period and during the non-drought period.
6. Please provide a copy of HNP's current NPDES permit and discuss any changes or permitting revisions that would be necessitated by the proposed operational change.
7. Please provide a copy of HNP's current Georgia surface water withdrawal permit and discuss any changes or permitting revisions that would be necessitated by the proposed operational change.
8. Please provide the volume (in million gallons per day [MGD]) of surface water withdrawn annually by HNP, Units 1 and 2, from the Altamaha River (covering the last 5 years).

ENCLOSURE

September 11, 2012

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/RA/

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML12250A852

* By memo dated

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