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

March 9, 2021

Barty Simonton
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
Environmental Radiation Program
4220 International Pkwy., Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30354

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE HATCH AND VOGTLE INDEPENDENT
SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING
PLANS

Dear Mr. Simonton:

By letter dated March 31, 2014, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted decommissioning funding plans (DFP) for the Edward I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 (Hatch) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 (Vogtle) ISFSI, both located in Georgia, for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and approval.

The NRC regulations at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 72, "Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level Radioactive Waste, and Reactor-Related Greater than Class C Waste," govern the storage of spent nuclear fuel (spent fuel) generated at commercial nuclear power reactors licensed by the NRC. Spent fuel that has been removed from the reactor's spent fuel pool is typically stored at a nuclear power plant's ISFSI.

The NRC requires its licensees to plan for the eventual decommissioning of their licensed facilities prior to license termination. On June 17, 2011, the NRC published a final rule amending its decommissioning planning regulations (76 *Federal Register* (FR) 35512). The final rule amended the NRC regulation, 10 CFR 72.30, which concerns financial assurance and decommissioning for ISFSI. This regulation now requires each holder of, or applicant for, a license under 10 CFR Part 72 to submit, for NRC review and approval, a DFP. The purpose of the DFP is to demonstrate the licensee's financial assurance (i.e., that funds will be available to decommission the ISFSI). The NRC staff is reviewing the information submitted by SNC. Specifically, the NRC must determine whether SNC DFPs contain the information required by 10 CFR 72.30(b) and whether SNC has provided reasonable assurance that funds will be available to decommission the Hatch and Vogtle ISFSIs.

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The SNC ISFSI DFPs are publicly available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS accession number for the application package is ML14091A008 for the 2014 initial DFPs.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the agency has prepared separate draft environmental assessment (EA) for Hatch and Vogtle ISFSIs for the proposed action (enclosed). We are providing your office with the opportunity to review the draft EAs and comment on environmental issues prior to the public issuance and publication of the EAs. We request that distribution and use of the enclosed draft EAs be limited only to those staff involved in the review and comment process.

Please submit any comments within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Document Control Desk, ATTN: John McKirgan, Mail Stop: TWFN 4B34, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. If you have any questions, please contact Yen-Ju Chen of my staff by telephone at 301-415-8108, or by e-mail at Yen-Ju.Chen@nrc.gov. The NRC staff will consider your timely comments and will revise the EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance and publication. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

John B.
McKirgan

Digitally signed by John B.
McKirgan
Date: 2021.03.09 09:57:59
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John B. McKirgan, Chief
Storage and Transportation Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket Nos.: 72-36 and 72-1039
License Nos.: SFGL-09 and SFGL-59
EPID Nos.: L-2017-FPR-0032 and
L-2017-FPR-0072

Enclosures:

1. Draft EA for Hatch ISFSI
2. Draft EA for Vogtle ISFSI

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ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML21057A314 (Pkg) ML21057A315 (Ltr)
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*concurrence via email

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| DATE | 3/1/2021 | 3/4/2021 | 3/9/2021 |

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