



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

July 22, 2025

Wilson Yargee, Chief
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
P.O. Box 187
Wetumka, OK 74883

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW OF THE HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (DOCKET NUMBERS: 50-
321 AND 50-366)

Dear Chief Wilson Yargee:

The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) for a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) environmental review. Specifically, the NRC is conducting a review of the environmental effects of the proposed subsequent renewal of the renewed facility operating licenses for the Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (Hatch) for an additional 20 years of operation. Hatch is operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc. (SNC) and is located in Appling County, Georgia. SNC submitted an application for subsequent license renewal (SLR) by letter dated May 15, 2025, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." The application is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, which is accessible online at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, under Package Accession No. [ML25135A390](#).

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, authorizes the NRC to issue initial operating licenses for up to 40 years for nuclear power reactors. Upon application and approval, such licenses may be renewed for terms of up to an additional 20 years for each renewal. SLR is defined as the term consisting of the period of extended operation from 60 to 80 years. The NRC makes the decision to approve or deny an SLR application based on whether the applicant has demonstrated that the safety and environmental requirements in the agency's regulations can be met during the period of extended operation. The NRC issued the initial operating licenses for Hatch on August 6, 1974 (Unit No. 1) and June 13, 1978 (Unit No. 2). The NRC renewed these licenses in 2002. The licenses currently expire on August 6, 2034 (Unit No. 1) and June 13, 2038 (Unit No. 2). If approved, the requested SLR would extend the expiration dates to August 6, 2054 (Unit No. 1) and June 13, 2058 (Unit No. 2).

As part of its environmental review of the Hatch SLR application, the NRC staff will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will be used to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary, or a finding of no significant impact is warranted to satisfy the NRC's obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), as

implemented by the NRC's regulations at 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions."

In accordance with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR) Section 800.8(c), the NRC intends to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA through the NEPA process in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. Therefore, the EA will include the identification of historic properties and historic and cultural resources, an assessment of impacts, and a determination. During the preparation of the EA, the NRC will follow the procedural requirements and standards set out in 36 CFR 800.8(c).

In the context of the NHPA, the NRC has determined that the area of potential effects (APE) for the Hatch SLR includes lands within the nuclear power plant site boundary and the transmission lines up to the first substation that may be directly or indirectly affected by land-disturbing or other operational activities associated with continued operations and maintenance and/or refurbishment activities. The APE may extend beyond the site if such activities affect offsite historic properties. This determination is made irrespective of land ownership or control.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC wishes to ensure that Indian Tribes that might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties in the APE are afforded the opportunity to identify their concerns, provide advice on the identification and evaluation of historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance, and, if necessary, participate in the resolution of any adverse effects to such properties.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC invites you to submit any comments or concerns that you may have regarding NHPA Section 106 consultation for the Hatch SLR application within 30 days. The NRC will forward the draft historic and cultural resources section of the EA to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments and comments received from consulting parties, the NRC plans to issue the EA in March 2026.

Please note that future correspondence will be sent via electronic format. If you would prefer to receive hard copy correspondence, please contact the points of contact listed below.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC's NHPA Section 106 consultation, please contact Beau Goldstein, Staff Archaeologist, by phone at 301-415-1765 or via email at Beau.Goldstein@nrc.gov or Ashley Waldron, Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-7317 or via email at Ashley.Waldron@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Desiree Davis".

Signed by Davis, Desiree
on 07/22/25

Desiree Davis, Acting Chief
Environmental Technical Review Branch 1
Division of Rulemaking, Environment,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

cc: Listserv

Brina Williams, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
brina.williams@alabama-quassarte.org

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW OF THE HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (DOCKET NUMBERS: 50-
321 AND 50-366)

DATED: July 22, 2025

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC

RidsOpaMail

RidsOgcMailCenter

JZimmerman, NMSS/REFS

KButler, NMSS/REFS

DDavis, NMSS/REFS

SKoenick, NMSS/REFS

AWaldron, NMSS/REFS

BGoldstein, NMSS/REFS

NMorgan, NMSS/MSST

GFlanders NMSS/MSST

BHarris, NRR/DNRL

MSampson, NRR/DNRL

JPaige, NRR/DNRL

ANeuhausen, NRR/DNRL

MMarkley, NRR/DORL

DKalathiveetil, NRR/DORL

SBurnell, HQ/OPA

MConley/HQ/OPA

CWolf, OCA

NCovert RII/DORS

KMcCurry, RII/DORS

JZeiler, RII/DORS

CDorman, RII/DORS

JPelchat, RII/RGLO

KHenry, RII/ RGLO

DGasperson RII/PAO

ADAMS Accession No: ML25192A077

***concurred via email**

OFFICE	NMSS/REFS	NMSS/REFS	NMSS/REFS	OGC	NMSS/REFS
NAME	BGoldstein	AWalker-Smith	AWaldron	JWachutka	DDavis
DATE	07/11/2025	07/11/2025	07/14/2025	07/18/2025	07/22/2025

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY