

June 20, 2000

Mr. David A. Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1616 P Street NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036-1495

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

I am responding to the petition that you submitted pursuant to Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2, Section 206 (10 CFR 2.206), to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on May 3, 2000, on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Your letter also requested that the NRC issue a generic communication on radwaste systems and that 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54 be revised to include aging management for radwaste systems. As was discussed with you in our teleconference on May 15, 2000, these two issues are being handled under other processes. We understand you are in agreement with this approach. In the petition, you requested that the NRC ask questions, via a demand for information, of the owner of Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, concerning the liquid and gaseous radwaste systems at Hatch. As the basis for your request, you contend that Hatch is being operated outside its design and licensing bases because the material condition of piping, tanks, and other components of the liquid and gaseous radwaste systems is not being properly inspected and maintained.

The design and licensing bases of the radwaste systems are described in the Hatch Updated Final Safety Analysis Report. Based on recent inspections by the Region II staff, we have no findings that would indicate that the liquid and gaseous radwaste systems are being operated outside of the design or licensing basis. Therefore, the staff believes that there is no immediate safety problem associated with the material condition of the radwaste systems at Hatch, and no immediate action in response to your petition is required. However, we note that, on occasion, problems or undesirable conditions in plant equipment do occur. Licensee procedures require that upon discovery of undesirable conditions or problems, a condition report be generated so that the issue can be tracked for trending purposes and corrective action can be initiated. Periodic inspections of the corrective action program are conducted according to the NRC inspection program to verify that licensees are identifying and correcting plant problems.

D. A. Lochbaum

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As provided by 10 CFR 2.206, we will take action on your request within a reasonable time. We plan to request information from the licensee addressing the issues raised in your petition. I have assigned Leonard Olshan as the petition manager. Mr. Olshan can be reached at 301-415-1419. I have enclosed for your information a copy of the notice that is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA R. P. Zimmerman for:/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

Enclosure: Federal Register Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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cc w/encl: See next page

*See previous concurrence

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-321 AND 50-366

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-57 AND NPF-5

RECEIPT OF PETITION FOR DIRECTOR'S DECISION UNDER 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that by petition dated May 3, 2000, Mr. David A. Lochbaum, on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists, has requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) take action with regard to Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Hatch), owned and operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., et al. (the licensee). The Petitioner requested that the NRC ask questions, via a demand for information, of the licensee concerning the liquid and gaseous radwaste systems at Hatch. As the basis for the request, the Petitioner contended that Hatch is being operated outside its design and licensing bases because the material condition of piping, tanks, and other components of the liquid and gaseous radwaste systems is not being properly inspected and maintained.

A copy of the petition is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC, and is accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronics Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www/nrc.gov>).

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Roy P. Zimmerman, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 20th day of June 2000.

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant

cc:

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