



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23TB5
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

March 4, 2002

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr.
Vice President - Hatch Plant
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Power Plant
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT
(REPORT 50-321/02-01 AND 50-366/02-01)**

Dear Mr. Sumner:

On February 4, 2002, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Hatch Nuclear Plant. The end-of-cycle review for Hatch involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period from April 1 through December 31, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility. This will provide you with the opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

As discussed in our previous annual assessment letter dated May 31, 2001, this inspection and assessment cycle consisted of three quarters (i.e. the second, third, and fourth calendar quarters of Calendar Year 2001) instead of the usual four quarters. This change was implemented in order to align the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2002.

Overall, Hatch operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first two quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections and routine Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility inspections at Hatch through March 31, 2003.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2003. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

With respect to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, immediately following the attacks, the NRC issued safeguards advisories recommending that nuclear power plant licensees go to the highest level of security, and all promptly did so. With continued uncertainty about the possibility of additional terrorist activities, the Nation's nuclear power plants, including Hatch, remain at a high level of security. On February 25, 2002, the NRC issued an Order to all nuclear power plant licensees, requiring them to take certain additional interim compensatory measures to address the generalized high-level threat environment. These additional compensatory requirements will provide the NRC with reasonable assurance that public health and safety and the common defense and security continue to be adequately protected in the current generalized high-level threat environment. These requirements will remain in effect pending notification from the Commission that a significant change in the threat environment occurs, or until the Commission determines that other changes are needed following a more comprehensive re-evaluation of current safeguards and security programs. To date, we have monitored the Southern Nuclear Operating Company's actions in response to the terrorist attacks through a series of audits. With the issuance of the Order, in addition to the inspections described in the enclosed plan, we will evaluate Hatch's compliance with these interim requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 404-562-4520 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen J. Cahill, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-321, 50-366
License Nos. DPR-57, NPF-5

Enclosure: Hatch Nuclear Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

SNC

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cc w/encl:
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Hatch
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2002 - 03/31/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	OL EP	- EMERGENCY INSPECTION	1			
1, 2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EB2 ISI	- ISI	1			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/18/2002	03/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION	2			
1, 2	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI		05/22/2002	05/24/2002	Other Routine
	PS-RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION	3			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
	OL RQ	- REQUAL INSPECTION	2			
1, 2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		07/15/2002	07/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-SSDI	- SSDI - PRE-INSPECTION VISIT	1			
1, 2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		07/22/2002	07/26/2002	Baseline Inspections
	PS-SEC	- SECURITY	1			
1, 2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizator		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
	BR2-BI	- FLOOD PROTECTION	1			
1, 2	IP 7111106	Flood Protection Measures		08/12/2002	08/16/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-SSDI	- SSDI - INSPECTION	5			
1, 2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-SSDI	- SSDI - INSPECTION	5			
1, 2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
	OL PREP	- INITIAL EXAM PREP	3			
1	V23191	HATCH/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		09/30/2002	10/04/2002	Not Applicable
	ISFSI	- ISFSI	1			
1, 2	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Other Routine

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Hatch
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2002 - 03/31/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM		4			
1	V23191	HATCH/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Not Applicable
	PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION-@ SMYRNA ENV. LAB		1			
1, 2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		10/30/2002	11/01/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-MODS - EB2-MODS/50.59		3			
1, 2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		12/01/2002	12/05/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		12/01/2002	12/05/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-MR - EB2-MR		1			
1, 2	IP 711112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		02/10/2003	02/14/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PS-SEC - SECURITY		1			
1, 2	IP 7113003	Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Strategie		02/24/2003	02/28/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION		3			
1, 2	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI		03/03/2003	03/07/2003	Other Routine
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/03/2003	03/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/03/2003	03/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		03/03/2003	03/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/03/2003	03/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-ISI - EB2-ISI		1			
2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/10/2003	03/14/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION		3			
1, 2	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Other Routine
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections