

June 13, 2001

Mr. David Kyler
Center for a Sustainable Coast
P.O. Box 598
Darien, Georgia 31305

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO WRITTEN STATEMENT PRESENTED DURING
DECEMBER 12, 2000, PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Kyler:

At the public meeting held on December 12, 2000, to discuss the draft environmental impact statement for renewal of the operating licenses for Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, you provided a written statement dated December 12, 2000. Your comments stating that the plants have no containment structures and the facility has a history of accidents have been forwarded to us for resolution.

Both units have containment structures which have been reviewed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and approved in Section 6.2 of the "Safety Evaluation of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Unit 1," issued May 31, 1973, and Section 6.2 of the "Safety Evaluation Report related to the operation of Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit No. 2," issued June 1978. Furthermore, modifications to both containments were implemented in response to concerns raised about the adequacy of the Mark I containments which are used at Hatch. By letter from Mr. J. F. Stolz to Mr. J. T. Beckham, dated January 25, 1984, the NRC concluded that the licensee's analysis "verified that the containment modifications made have restored the original safety margin to the Mark I containment at the Hatch Plants." Therefore, we conclude that the containments at Hatch, in conjunction with other structures, systems and components which are important to safety, are adequate.

Your written statement states that "the facility has a history of accidents, suggesting significant threats with continuing operation of Plant Hatch." The NRC employs a staff of resident inspectors that investigates events that occur at the facility. If needed, the NRC provides assistance to the resident inspector staff in the investigation of an event by dispatching personnel from its regional office in Atlanta, Georgia, and from NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. For example, to investigate the January 26, 2000, reactor trip of Hatch Unit 1, the NRC initially dispatched a Special Investigation Team to the site, and on January 28, 2000, upgraded the inspection effort to an Augmented Inspection Team. The NRC has determined that none of the events that has occurred at the facility has posed a threat to the health and safety of the public. Therefore, we have concluded that there is not a significant threat with the continuing operation of the facility.

Mr. David Kyler

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We trust that this explanation is responsive to your concerns. Should you have any questions or comments on this response, please call me toll-free at 1-800-368-5642.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard N. Olshan, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

cc: See next page

Mr. David Kyler

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Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant

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