

**Jeffrey T. Gasser**  
Vice President

**Southern Nuclear  
Operating Company, Inc.**  
40 Inverness Center Parkway  
Post Office Box 1295  
Birmingham, Alabama 35201  
  
Tel 205.992.7721  
Fax 205.992.0403



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NL-03-2459

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50-366 50-364 50-425

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant  
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant  
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant  
Response to NRC Bulletin 2003-04  
"Rebaselining of Data in the Nuclear  
Materials Management and Safeguards System"

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued NRC Bulletin 2003-04, "Rebaselining of Data in the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System," dated October 8, 2003, to inform licensees of performance concerns associated with reporting of data to and the resulting materials balances contained in the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System (NMMSS) database. Accordingly, the enclosure to this letter provides the Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) 90-day response for Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, and Vogtle Electric Generating Plant.

This letter contains no NRC commitments. The SNC technical point of contact for this bulletin response is Robin Jones (205/992-5079). If you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Gasser

JTG/TMM/sdl

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cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Mr. J. D. Woodard, Executive Vice President

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr., Vice President, Plant Farley

Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr., Vice President, Plant Hatch

Mr. D. E. Grissette, General Manager – Plant Farley

Mr. G. R. Frederick, General Manager – Plant Hatch

Mr. W. F. Kitchens, General Manager – Plant Vogtle

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator

Mr. S. E. Peters, NRR Project Manager – Farley

Mr. S. D. Bloom, NRR Project Manager – Hatch

Mr. S. D. Bloom, NRR Project Manager – Vogtle

Mr. T. P. Johnson, Senior Resident Inspector – Farley

Mr. D. S. Simpkins, Senior Resident Inspector – Hatch

Mr. J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector – Vogtle

Mr. L. C. Harris, NSIR

Enclosure

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**NRC Bulletin Item (i)**

Notify licensees about performance concerns associated with their reporting data to, and the resulting material balances contained in, the NMMSS database.

**Response to NRC Bulletin Item (i)**

SNC acknowledges the performance concerns described in the Bulletin and provides the requested information in Items (ii), (iii), and (iv) below.

**NRC Bulletin Item (ii)(a)**

Request affected licensees to perform a one-time reporting of the quantities of special nuclear material (SNM) and/or foreign obligated source material in their possession, specified as a quantity of SNM defined by 10 CFR 72.76, 72.78, 74.15, and 150.16, as 1 gram or more of contained uranium-235, uranium-233, plutonium, or 0.1 gram or more plutonium-238 that is greater than 10 percent of the total plutonium by weight.

**SNC Response to Bulletin Item (ii)(a)**

SNC made its last periodic inventory report of this material as of May 31, 2003, to NMMSS for FNP, HNP, and VEGP in References 1, 2, and 3, respectively. As directed by the Bulletin, SNC subsequently contacted NMMSS to request verification that this last reported material inventory was in agreement with the book values identified in the NMMSS database. This request was made by electronic communications on December 4 and 8, 2003. Accordingly, SNC will interface with NMMSS as needed to confirm the material inventory in their database is in agreement with References 1, 2, and 3 as of May 31, 2003.

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**NRC Bulletin Item (ii)(b):**

Request affected licensees to perform a one-time reporting of the quantities of special nuclear material (SNM) and/or foreign obligated source material in their possession, specified as a quantity of foreign obligated source material (i.e., natural uranium, depleted uranium, or thorium) defined by 10 CFR 40.64 and 150.17 as 1 kilogram or more.

**SNC Response to Bulletin Item (ii)(b)**

SNC made its last periodic inventory report of this material as of May 31, 2003, to NMMSS for FNP, HNP, and VEGP in References 1, 2, and 3, respectively. As directed by the Bulletin, SNC subsequently contacted NMMSS to request verification that this last reported material inventory was in agreement with the book values identified in the NMMSS database. This request was made by electronic communications on December 4 and 8, 2003. Accordingly, SNC will interface with NMMSS as needed to confirm the material inventory in their database is in agreement with References 1, 2, and 3 as of May 31, 2003.

**NRC Bulletin Item (iii):**

Request affected licensees to perform a one-time reporting of the quantities of other types of Government-owned materials, specified as any quantity of deuterium, tritium, curium, americium, neptunium, californium, berkelium, or enriched lithium in their possession (hereafter referred to as other Government-owned materials).

**SNC Response to Bulletin Item (iii)**

SNC has no holdings of other types of Government-owned materials specified as any quantity of deuterium, tritium, curium, americium, neptunium, californium, berkelium, or enriched lithium.

**NRC Bulletin Item (iv):**

Request affected licensees to submit the results of this one-time reporting of the balances of the requested material types directly to NMMSS, as described in NUREG/BR-0006 or 0007 and NMMSS Report D-24, as referenced in 10 CFR 40.64, 72.76, 72.78, 74.13, 74.15, 150.16, and 150.17, and to coordinate with NMMSS staff, the resolution of any discrepancies that become evident, based on a comparison of the results of the one-time reporting and previously existing licensee nuclear material balances.

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### **SNC Response to Bulletin Item (iv)**

SNC’s response to Bulletin Items (ii)(a), (ii)(b), and (iii) above conforms with the guidance provided in NMMSS special edition newsletter dated October 2003, and the electronic communication from the NRC (Mr. Larry Harris, NSIR/NRC) dated December 16, 2003, for a licensee to verify that its nuclear material inventory is in agreement with the NMMSS database records.

### **References**

1. Farley, RIS YYU and RIS XWW, reported on June 25, 2003 (SNC letter FNP-03-0113-ES).
2. Hatch, RIS XDG, reported on July 18, 2003 (SNC letter CAH-NF-2429).
3. Vogtle, RIS XIJ, reported on June 30, 2003 (SNC letter CAV-NF-1263).