



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

March 2, 2005

Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
ATTN: Mr. H.L. Sumner, Jr.  
Vice President - Hatch Project  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000321/2005001, 05000366/2005001)**

Dear Mr. Sumner:

On February 1, 2005, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant. The end-of-cycle review for Hatch involved the participation of the reactor technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2004. 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 allow you an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities. This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate end-of-cycle performance review letter, designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390," will include the physical protection review and a resultant inspection plan.

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 three 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 reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2006. We also plan to conduct non-ROP inspections of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation operations.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2006. 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 inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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 404-562-4550 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**//RA//**

Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-321, 50-366, 72-36  
Licensee Nos. DPR-57, NPF-5

Enclosure: Hatch Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

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