



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

August 30, 2005

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - EDWIN I.  
HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Sumner:

On August 3, 2005, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant for the first half of the calendar year 2005 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous twelve months. 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 performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate 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.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter 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). However, the significance of a finding involving the removal of the Technical Support Center for a period of greater than seven days is under review as part of the significance determination process. Pending resolution of this finding, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2007. We also plan on conducting an inspection of your independent spent fuel storage installation which is not part of the routine baseline inspection program.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2007. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-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 the 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,

**IRA**

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

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

Enclosure: Hatch Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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cc w/encl: Continued

J. T. Gasser  
Executive Vice President  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Electronic Mail Distribution

George R. Frederick  
General Manager, Plant Hatch  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Raymond D. Baker  
Manager Licensing - Hatch  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Arthur H. Domby, Esq.  
Troutman Sanders  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Laurence Bergen  
Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
205 Butler Street, SE, Suite 1252  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Manager, Radioactive Materials Program  
Department of Natural Resources  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Chairman  
Appling County Commissioners  
69 Tippins St., Suite 201  
Baxley, GA 31513

Resident Manager  
Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Senior Engineer - Power Supply  
Municipal Electric Authority  
of Georgia  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Reece McAlister  
Executive Secretary  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Distribution w/encl: (See page 4)

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Distribution w/encl:  
C. Gratton, NRR  
L. Slack, RII EICS  
RIDSNNRRDIPMLIPB  
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