

APR 4 1997

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

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)
(INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-321/97-99 AND 50-366/97-99)

Dear Mr. Sumner:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) for Plant Hatch. The facility was assessed for the period of May 28, 1995, through February 22, 1997. The results of the assessment are documented in the enclosed SALP report which will be discussed with you at a public meeting at the Hatch site on April 22, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Hatch Nuclear Plant's (HNP) performance was assessed in four functional areas: Plant Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, and Plant Support. Performance in Engineering remained superior. Performance in Operations improved to a superior level. Performance in Plant Support and Maintenance remained good.

Plant Operations' performance was characterized by conservative plant management decisions, and strong operator knowledge and ability, as demonstrated by effective response to plant transients and proper implementation of startups and shutdowns. Safety Audit and Engineering Review group audits were thorough, critical, and contained findings which improved the safe operation of the plant. Procedure adherence, especially by non-licensed operators, is an area that needs your continued attention.

Maintenance activities were well planned and controlled; surveillance and in-service inspection and testing programs continued to be effectively implemented. Changes implemented in the maintenance organization to create a performance team concept were effective and adequately controlled. Plant transients caused by equipment problems, personnel errors, missed surveillance tests, and foreign material exclusion detracted from obtaining a higher category rating. In addition, oversight of contractor activities remained a challenge.

The Engineering functional area continued to be characterized by superior performance. Previously identified strengths of strong management involvement and oversight, a well qualified staff at both the site and corporate office, and performance initiatives have been maintained. Licensing submittals were of high quality. The quality and effectiveness of major modifications, as well as licensee root cause analyses, continued to improve.

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Plant Support sustained its past good performance. Performance for security activities remained very strong. Contamination control continued to be a challenge. The emergency preparedness program was effective in maintaining site readiness; however, accuracy and timeliness of classification of events and off-site emergency communications remained a challenge. In addition, although self assessments and critiques were good, followup corrective actions were not always effective. Fire protection activities continued to be good, with the exception of implementation of fire watches.

Improvements were made during this SALP period with the self-assessment programs for the station and the corrective actions taken in followup to issues raised at other facilities.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Luis A. Reyes)

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure: SALP Report 50-321/97-99 and 50-366/97-99

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