

March 24, 2000

Mr. H. L. Sumner
Vice President - Hatch Project
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING REGARDING AN APPLICATION FROM SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC. FOR RENEWAL OF THE OPERATING LICENSES FOR UNITS 1 AND 2 OF THE EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Sumner:

On March 1, 2000, the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received your application for renewal of Operating Licenses DPR-57 and NPF-5 for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Hatch 1 and Hatch 2). Notice of receipt of this application was published in the Federal Register on March 10, 2000 (65 FR 13061).

The NRC staff has determined that Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. has submitted sufficient information that is acceptable for docketing, in accordance with 10 CFR 54.19, 54.21, 54.22, 54.23, and 51.53(c). However, the staff's determination does not preclude requests for additional information as the review proceeds.

This letter also forwards the staff's safety and environmental review schedule for the Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 application. The NRC staff will follow established review procedures and the enclosed schedule to complete the safety and environmental reviews required by 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51, respectively. This schedule has been established in accordance with the 30-month review plan, which includes time for the conduct of a hearing should a hearing be requested and granted. Milestones for hearing activities are not included in the enclosed schedule because those dates are established by the Commission and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

I would like to stress that this is a very ambitious schedule and the staff will make every effort to meet or exceed the milestones. We, therefore, request that you inform the staff as early as possible should potential schedule delays arise in your support for the milestones.

Finally, we have enclosed for your information a copy of the notice relating to your application that is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. This notice also provides, in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.105, the opportunity to request a hearing and to file a petition for leave to intervene.

H. L. Sumner

-2-

March 24, 2000

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact William Burton, the License Renewal Project Manager for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2, at 301-415-2853.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

H. L. Sumner

-2-

March 24, 2000

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact William Burton, the License Renewal Project Manager for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2, at 301-415-2853.

Sincerely,

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cc w/enclosures: See next page

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C:\Hatch Acceptance Review.wpd

OFFICE	RLSB	LA	OGC
NAME	W Burton	E Hylton	J Moore
DATE	3/23/00	3/23/00	3/23/00
OFFICE	RGEB:BC	RLSB:BC	DRIP:D
NAME	Ccarpenter	C Grimes	DMatthews
DATE	3/23/00	3/23/00	3/24/00

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

**HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW SCHEDULE**

MILESTONE	DATE	ACTUAL DATE
Receive License Renewal Application	3/1/00	3/1/00
Notice Application Tendered	3/15/00	3/10/00
Publish Acceptance Review & Docket Application/Notice of Opportunity for Hearing	3/30/00	
Notice of Intent/Notice of Environmental Scoping Meeting	3/30/00	
Deadline for Filing Hearing Requests and Petitions for Intervention	5/1/00	
Environmental Scoping Meeting	5/15/00	
EIS Scoping Period Ends	5/29/00	
Staff Complete Environmental RAIs	7/17/00	
Staff Complete Technical RAIs	7/28/00	
Applicant Responds to Environmental RAIs	9/18/00	
Applicant Responds to Technical RAIs	10/11/00	
Complete Scoping Inspection	12/29/00	
Staff Issue Draft EIS for Comment	1/5/01	
Staff Issue SER & Identify Open Items	2/8/01	
Public Meeting to Discuss DEIS	2/12/01	
ACRS Subcommittee Meeting	2/23/01	
Complete Aging Management Review Inspection	3/9/01	
ACRS Full Committee Meeting	3/9/01	
End of DEIS Comment Period	3/28/01	

Applicant Complete Responses to SER Open Items	6/8/01
Staff Issue Final EIS	7/20/01
Complete Optional Final Inspection	9/7/01
Staff Issue SSER	10/5/01
ACRS Subcommittee Meeting	10/22/01
Regional Administrator's Letter	10/23/01
ACRS Full Committee Meeting	11/5/01
ACRS Letter	11/13/01
Issue SER as NUREG	11/19/01
Commission Paper w/Staff Recommendation	5/20/02
Commission Decision	8/02

NOTE: MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH ANY REQUEST FOR HEARING AND PETITION(S) FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY COMMISSION AND ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD ACTIONS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION[DOCKET NOS. 50-321 AND 50-366]SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC.EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR DOCKETING OF THE APPLICATIONAND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING REGARDING RENEWAL OF LICENSENOS. DPR - 57 AND NPF-5FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-YEAR PERIOD

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering an application for the renewal of Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, which authorize Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) to operate Units 1 and 2 of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (Hatch 1 and Hatch 2, respectively), at 2,763 megawatts thermal. The renewed license would authorize the applicant to operate Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 for an additional 20 years beyond the period specified in the current licenses. The current operating licenses for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 expire on August 6, 2014 and June 13, 2018, respectively.

SNC submitted an application to renew the operating licenses for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 on March 1, 2000. A Notice of Receipt of Application, "Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2; Notice of Receipt of Application for Renewal of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, for an Additional Twenty-Year Period," was published in the Federal Register on March 10, 2000 (65 FR 13061).

The Commission's staff has determined that SNC has submitted information in accordance with 10 CFR 54.19, 54.21, 54.22, 54.23, and 51.53(c) that is complete and acceptable for docketing. The current Docket Nos. 50-321 for Operating License No. DPR-57 and 50-366 for Operating License No. NPF-5, will be retained. The docketing of the renewal

application does not preclude requesting additional information as the review proceeds, nor does it predict whether the Commission will grant or deny the application.

Before issuance of the requested license renewal, the NRC will have made the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the NRC's rules and regulations. In accordance with 10 CFR 54.29, the NRC will issue a renewed license on the basis of its review and findings that actions have been identified and have been or will be taken with respect to (1) managing the effects of aging during the period of extended operation on the functionality of structures and components that have been identified as requiring aging management review, and (2) time-limited aging analyses that have been identified as requiring review such that there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the renewed license will continue to be conducted in accordance with the current licensing basis (CLB) and that any changes made to the plant's CLB comply with the Act and the Commission's regulations.

Additionally, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.95(c), the NRC will prepare an environmental impact statement that is a supplement to the Commission's NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants," (May 1996). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.26, and as part of the environmental scoping process, the staff intends to hold a public scoping meeting. Detailed information regarding this meeting will be included in a future Federal Register notice. The Commission also intends to hold public meetings to discuss the license renewal process and the schedule for conducting the review. The Commission will provide prior notice of these meetings. As discussed further herein, in the event that a hearing is held, issues that may be litigated will be confined to those pertinent to the foregoing.

By 30 days after publication date, the applicant may file a request for a hearing, and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a

party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene with respect to the license renewal in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.714. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714, which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. If a request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel will rule on the request(s) and/or petition(s), and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of a hearing or an appropriate order. In the event that no request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the NRC may, upon completion of its evaluations and upon making the findings required under 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51, renew the license without further notice.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, taking into consideration the limited scope of matters that may be considered pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51. The petition must specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order that may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition must also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the board up to 15 days before the first prehearing conference

scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days before the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene that must include a list of the contentions that the petitioner seeks to have litigated in the hearing. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of each contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or the expert opinion that supports the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. The petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the action under consideration. The contention must be one that, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement that satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington

DC 20037, by the above date. A copy of the request for a hearing and the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Mr. H.L. Sumner, Vice President - Hatch Project, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. 40 Inverness Center Parkway, P.O. Box 1295, Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions, and/or requests for a hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer, or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1) (i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

Detailed information about the license renewal process can be found under the nuclear reactors' icon of the NRC's Web page <<http://www.nrc.gov>>.

A copy of the application to renew the Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 licenses is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, and on the NRC's Web page <<http://www.nrc.gov>>. In addition, the Appling County Library, 242 East Parker Street, Baxley, Georgia 31513, has agreed to make a copy of the application and related information available to the public.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of March 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Acting Chief
License Renewal and Standardization Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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RLSB RF

S. Duraiswamy, ACRS - T2E26

H. Hylton

E-mail:

R. Zimmerman

J. Johnson

D. Matthews

S. Newberry

C. Grimes

C. Carpenter

B. Zalcman

J. Strosnider

R. Wessman

G. Bagchi

E. Imbro

W. Bateman

J. Calvo

S. Peterson

G. Holahan

T. Collins

C. Gratton

B. Boger

J. Peralta

J. Moore

J. Rutberg

R. Weisman

B. Poole

M. Mayfield

S. Bahadur

A. Murphy

D. Martin

W. McDowell

S. Droggitis

RLSB Staff

L. Olshan

J. Vora

H. Berkow

S. Cahill

J. Wilson

V. McCree

Souther Nuclear Operating Company
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2

Docket Nos.: 50-321, 50-366

cc:

Mr. D. M. Crowe
Manager, Licensing
Souther Nuclear Operating Company Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Resident Inspector
Plant Hatch
11030 Hatch Parkway N.
Baxley, Georgia 31531

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Charles H. Badger
Office of Planning and Budget
Room 610
270 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Harold Reheis, Director
Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Steven M. Jackson
Senior Engineer-Power Supply
Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia
1470 Riveredge Parkway, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30328-4684

Mr. Douglas J. Walters
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Stan Blanton, Esq.
Balch and Bingham
P.O. Box 306
Birmingham, AL 35201

Mary Jane Wilmoth, Esq.
National Whistleblower Legal Defense
and Education Fund
3238 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2756

Chairman
Appling County Commissioners
County Courthouse
Baxley, Georgia 31531

Mr. J. D. Woodard
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Mr. P. H. Wells
General Manager, Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear
Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
U.S. Highway 1 North
P.O. Box 2010
Baxley, Georgia 31515

Mr. R. D. Barker
Program Manager
Fossil & Nuclear Operations
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
P.O. Box 1349
Tucker, Georgia 30085-1349

Charles A. Patrizia, Esq.
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
10th Floor
1299 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20004-9500

Mr. Ray Baker
Hatch License Renewal Project Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham. Alabama 35201-1295

Mr. C.R. Pierce
Manager, License Renewal Services
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295