

**Southern Nuclear
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December 29, 2011

Docket Nos.: 50-321
50-366

NL-11-2344

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

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Unit 1 and Unit 2
Response Follow-up to URI on Degraded Voltage Protection

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated October 28, 2011, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) (NL-11-2032) stated that a follow-up letter would be provided by December 31, 2011 outlining a proposed technical solution to address the unresolved item (URI) on degraded voltage protection which was identified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the Component Basis Design Inspection performed at Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP) in July 2009. The letter informed the NRC that SNC was working to develop a cost-effective resolution to the underlying technical issue and also appealed to the Executive Director of Operations the NRC Staff's determination that a backfit is necessary at HNP and the application of the "compliance backfit" exception.

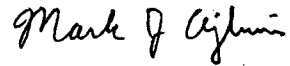
SNC is continuing to review the possible design change options and solutions that improve margin with and without design changes, but has not yet determined a preferred resolution of the issue. As noted in our previous correspondence on this issue, the corresponding safety benefit associated with this issue is very low, based on the likelihood of the scenario of concern (1.0 E-9 range). Moreover, SNC's appeal of the NRC Staff's backfit determination and the application of the compliance backfit exception has not yet been resolved.

Accordingly, SNC is not yet prepared at this time to propose a specific technical resolution of the issue. In the interim, SNC will continue to have open dialogue with NRC Staff regarding this issue.

This letter contains no NRC commitments. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. B. D. McKinney at (205) 992-5982.

ADD
NRR

Respectfully submitted,



M. J. Ajluni
Nuclear Licensing Director

MJA/TDH

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Mr. S. E. Kuczynski, Chairman, President & CEO
Mr. D. G. Bost, Chief Nuclear Officer
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. V. M. McCree, Regional Administrator
Mr. P. G. Boyle, NRR Senior Project Manager – Hatch
Mr. E. D. Morris, Senior Resident Inspector – Hatch