

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Dino C. Scaletti,**

*Senior Project Manager, Decommissioning Section, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 00-9060 Filed 4-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366]

### Southern Nuclear Operating Company and Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) has submitted an application for renewal of operating licenses DPR-57 and NPF-5 for an additional 20 years of operation at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Hatch). Hatch is located in Appling County, Georgia. The application for renewal was submitted by letter dated February 29, 2000, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54. A notice of receipt of application, including the environmental report (ER), was published in the **Federal Register** on March 10, 2000 (65 FR 13061). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for renewal of the facility operating license was published in the **Federal Register** on April 3, 2000 (65 FR 17543). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement in support of the review of the license renewal application and to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process as defined in 10 CFR 51.29.

In accordance with 10 CFR 54.23 and 10 CFR 51.53(c), SNC submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room in the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC, 20003-1527. In addition, the Appling County Library, located at 242 East Parker Street, Baxley, GA, 31513, has agreed to make the ER available for public inspection.

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) in

support of the review of the application for renewal of the Hatch operating licenses for an additional 20 years. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources. 10 CFR 51.95 requires that the NRC prepare a supplement to the GEIS in connection with the renewal of an operating license. This notice is being published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft supplement to the GEIS for public comment. Participation in this scoping process by members of the public and local, State, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS will be used to accomplish the following:

a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the supplement to the GEIS.

b. Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.

c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.

d. Identify any environmental assessments and other environmental impact statements (EISs) that are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the supplement to the GEIS being considered.

e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.

f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.

g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the supplement to the GEIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.

h. Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared, including any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in the scoping process:

a. The applicant, Southern Nuclear Operating Company.

b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.

c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.

d. Any affected Indian tribe.

e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.

f. Any person who intends to petition for leave to intervene.

Participation in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the supplement to the GEIS relates. Notice of opportunity for a hearing regarding the renewal application was the subject of the aforementioned **Federal Register** notice of acceptance for docketing. Matters related to participation in any hearing are outside the scope of matters to be discussed at this public meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC has decided to hold a public meeting for the Hatch license renewal supplement to the GEIS. The scoping meeting will be held at the small auditorium at the Southeastern Technical Institute 3001 East First Street, Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, May 10, 2000. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m. The second session will convene at 7 p.m. with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m. Both meetings will be transcribed and will include (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process, the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS, and the proposed review schedule; (2) an overview by SNC of the proposed action, Hatch license renewal, and the environmental impacts as outlined in the ER; and (3) the opportunity for interested Government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting on the NEPA scoping process by contacting Mr. James H. Wilson by telephone at 1 (800) 368-5642, extension 1108, or by Internet to the NRC at hatcheis@nrc.gov no later than May 5, 2000. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time

available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Mr. Wilson's attention no later than May 5, 2000, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS to Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6 D 59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the NRC at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments should be postmarked by June 9, 2000. Electronic comments may be sent by the Internet to the NRC at [hatcheis@nrc.gov](mailto:hatcheis@nrc.gov). Electronic submissions should be sent no later than June 9, 2000, to be considered in the scoping process. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> at the NRC Homepage.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection through the PERR link. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft supplement to the GEIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and a separate public meeting. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final supplement to the GEIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the supplement to the GEIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Mr. Wilson at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of April 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**David B. Matthews,**

*Director, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 00-9058 Filed 4-11-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Draft Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment a draft of a new guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The draft guide, temporarily identified by its task number, DG-1093 (which should be mentioned in all correspondence concerning this draft guide), is titled "Guidance and Examples for Identifying 10 CFR 50.2 Design Bases." This guide is being developed to provide a better understanding of the term "design bases" as defined in 10 CFR 50.2. This better understanding is to help the industry and the NRC staff implement the regulations that use the term design bases. This guide proposes the endorsement of the Nuclear Energy Institute document, Appendix B, "Guidelines and Examples for Identifying 10 CFR 50.2 Design Bases," to NEI 97-04, "Design Bases Program Guidelines."

This draft guide has not received complete staff approval and does not represent an official NRC staff position.

Comments may be accompanied by relevant information or supporting data. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Comments will be most helpful if received by June 15, 2000.

You may also provide comments via the NRC's interactive rulemaking website through the NRC home page (<http://www.nrc.gov>). This site provides

the availability to upload comments as files (any format), if your web browser supports that function. For information about the interactive rulemaking website, contact Ms. Carol Gallagher, (301) 415-5905; e-mail [CAG@NRC.GOV](mailto:CAG@NRC.GOV). Electronic copies of this draft guide, under Accession Number ML003691412, are available in NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room, which can also be accessed through NRC's web site, [WWW.NRC.GOV](http://WWW.NRC.GOV). For information about the draft guide and the related documents, contact Mr. S.L. Magruder at (301) 415-3139; e-mail [SLM1@NRC.GOV](mailto:SLM1@NRC.GOV).

Although a time limit is given for comments on this draft guide, comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific divisions should be made in writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Reproduction and Distribution Services Section; or by fax to (301)415-2289, or by e-mail to [DISTRIBUTION@NRC.GOV](mailto:DISTRIBUTION@NRC.GOV). Telephone requests cannot be accommodated. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them. (5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Charles E. Ader,**

*Director, Program Management, Policy Development & Analysis Staff Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

[FR Doc. 00-9059 Filed 4-11-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. IC-24378; File No. 812-11884]

**The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company of North America, et al., Notice of Application**

April 5, 2000.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice of Application for an order under Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the