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Contact: [Roger Hannah](#), 404-997-4417

[Joey Ledford](#), 404-997-4416

NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Hatch Nuclear Power Plant



The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has selected John Hickman as the resident inspector at the Hatch nuclear power plant near Baxley, Ga., about 20 miles south of Vidalia. The two-unit plant is operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Co.

Hickman joined the NRC in 2015 as an emergency preparedness inspector in the Division of Reactor Safety in the Region II office in Atlanta.

Before joining the agency, Hickman worked as a quality assurance senior program manager, providing oversight to all of the Tennessee Valley Authority's nuclear assets, both operational and under construction. He retired from the U.S. Navy after 26 years of service, including seven years at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia.

Hickman received a master's degree in management from Troy State University in Troy, Ala., a bachelor's degree in management from The New School University in New York, N.Y., and an associate's degree in engineering from Illinois Central College in Peoria, Ill.

At least two NRC resident inspectors are assigned to each operating U.S. commercial nuclear plant. They serve as the agency's eyes and ears at the facility, conducting inspections, monitoring major work projects and interacting with plant workers and the public. Resident inspectors can serve at a reactor site for up to seven years.

The Hatch resident inspectors can be reached at 912-367-9881.