

March 3, 2000

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 RE: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 98-02, "LOSS OF REACTOR COOLANT INVENTORY AND ASSOCIATED POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF EMERGENCY MITIGATION FUNCTION WHILE IN A SHUTDOWN CONDITION" (TAC NOS. MA4813 AND MA4814)

Dear Mr. Beasley:

On May 28, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-02 to all holders of operating licenses for Pressurized-Water Reactors (PWR). In this GL the NRC requested that PWR licensees evaluate a September 17, 1994, event, which occurred at Wolf Creek, which had the potential to draindown the reactor coolant system to the refueling water storage tank and, at the same time, render the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and residual heat removal (RHR) system inoperable by introducing a steam/water mixture to the suction side of the ECCS and RHR pumps. Addressees of GL 98-02 were requested to provide the following information within 180 days: (1) an assessment of whether the addressee's facility is vulnerable to the September 17, 1994, Wolf Creek event, and (2) if the facility is found to be vulnerable, an assessment of the plant-specific 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, quality assurance program attributes which will prevent the subject event. If the addressee's facility was determined to be vulnerable, a response to information item (1) was to be provided pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f) and 10 CFR 50.4, and the responses to information items (1) and (2) were to be kept in a licensee's retrievable system for use by the NRC staff on an as-needed basis.

In response to GL 98-02, you provided a letter dated November 23, 1998, for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Units 1 and 2. The submittal indicated that Vogtle, Units 1 and 2, were susceptible to an event similar to that which occurred at Wolf Creek and further indicated that the plant evaluation concerning the subject vulnerability (information item (2) of GL 98-02), was being kept in a retrievable licensee system that the NRC can verify on an as-needed or sample basis, in accordance with GL 98-02.

By letter dated December 22, 1999, Region II NRC staff issued NRC Inspection Report No. 50-424/99-08; 50-425/99-08. The subject inspection report contained details of the NRC staff's on-site verification of activities which you undertook in response to GL 98-02 for Vogtle, Units 1 and 2. Specifically, the inspectors reviewed all of the licensees' actions associated with the GL and determined that the licensee had adequately addresses the GL concerns. The inspectors verified that all of the actions had been completed. In addition,

during the 2R7 refueling outage, the inspectors verified that plant configuration controls existed to prevent a similar event as described in GL 98-02. This included a review of the startup and shutdown procedures, clearance and tagging controls, and the locked valve program. Based on this review, the inspectors concluded that the licensee had appropriate operational controls to prevent a similar event.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to GL 98-02 and has concluded that (1) all the information requested by GL 98-02 has been provided and (2) that your on-site activities adequately addressed the concerns of GL 98-02 for Vogtle, Units 1 and 2; therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for Vogtle, Units 1 and 2.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ramin Assa, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

cc: See next page

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The NRC staff has reviewed your response to GL 98-02 and has concluded that (1) all the information requested by GL 98-02 has been provided and (2) that your on-site activities adequately addressed the concerns of GL 98-02 for Vogtle, Units 1 and 2; therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for Vogtle, Units 1 and 2.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ramin Assa, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

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Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

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