

August 30, 2007

Mr. J. A. "Buzz" Miller, Senior Vice President
Nuclear Development
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT
APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Miller:

By letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) dated August 14, 2006, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), tendered its application for an early site permit (ESP) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) site, in accordance with Subpart A, "Early Site Permits," of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 52, "Early Site Permits; Standard Design Certifications; and Combined Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." The NRC formally accepted the application as a docketed application for an ESP on September 19, 2006. The NRC staff has reviewed the ESP application and has developed the enclosed safety evaluation report (SER) with open items.

The SER is being issued in accordance with the review schedule identified in the enclosure to the staff's letter to SNC dated September 19, 2006. The SER provides information to stakeholders regarding the state of completion of the staff's review of the safety aspects of SNC's ESP application and the remaining information needed for issuance of the final safety evaluation report (FSER). Because the SER contains open items (subjects for which SNC needs to provide additional information), the NRC staff has not made a decision regarding whether to recommend to the Commission that an ESP be issued for the VEGP site.

Issuance of this SER is an important milestone in the staff's rigorous review to determine whether SNC's application meets the Commission's regulations. In the period preceding preparation of the FSER, both SNC and the NRC staff will need to focus on resolution of the open items identified in the SER. To that end, the current schedule calls for SNC to provide responses to all open items no later than October 15, 2007.

It is imperative that SNC and the NRC staff exchange complete, timely, and accurate information in order for all open items to be resolved expeditiously. The staff requests SNC's cooperation in setting up meetings, responding fully to the staff's needs for information, and docketing the needed information in a timely manner. SNC should ensure that its meeting attendees have the authority to make commitments to resolve issues. Senior management meetings may be used to address difficult issues, if necessary.

The staff concludes that the enclosed SER does not contain any information for which exemption has been sought or approved. However, the NRC will withhold the enclosed SER from public disclosure for 14 calendar days from the date of this letter to allow SNC the

J. Miller

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opportunity to verify the staff's conclusions. If, after that time, you do not request that all or portions of the SER be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," the enclosure will be made available for public inspection through the NRC's Public Document Room and the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Public Electronic Reading Room section of the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Please contact Mr. Christian Araguas, the NRC project manager for the review of the SNC VEGP site application, at (301) 415-3637 or cja2@nrc.gov if you have any questions or comments concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-011

Enclosure:
VEGP ESP SER

cc w/o encl: See next page

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Please contact Mr. Christian Araguas, the NRC project manager for the review of the SNC VEGP site application, at (301) 415-3637 or cja2@nrc.gov if you have any questions or comments concerning this matter.

Sincerely,
/RA/
 David B. Matthews, Director
 Division of New Reactor Licensing
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-011
 Enclosure:
 VEGP ESP SER
 cc w/o encl: See next page

Package: ML071581032
 Letter: ML072400469
 Chapter 1: ML072250471
 Chapter 2: ML071800270
 Section 2.4: ML072040363
 Section 2.5 (Part 1): ML072010363
 Section 2.5 (Part 2): ML072010274
 Chapter 3: ML071580992
 Section 11: ML071770255
 Chapter 13: ML071970283
 Chapter 15: ML071580614
 Chapter 17: ML071580636
 Chapter 18: ML072250593
 Chapter 19: ML072250595
 Appendix A: ML072260173
 Appendix B: ML072220065
 Appendix C: ML072220271
 Appendix D: ML072250444

*NLO

OFFICE	PM:NWE1	BC:NWE1	OGC*	D:DNRL
NAME	CAraguas	EMcKenna for SCoffin	JRund	DMatthews
DATE	08/28/07	08/29/07	08/29/07	08/29/07

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Distribution of SER for the Vogtle ESP Application Dated August 30, 2007

Hard Copy w/encl.:

CAraguas
MNotich

Hard Copy w/o encl.:

Public

Email:

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RidsNroDnrlNwe1	MConcepcion
RidsNroDnrlNwe2	RidsOpaMail
RidsOgcRp	BKlukan
MNotich	MLoftus
CAraguas	MThaggard
RidsNroDcip	MHart
RidsNroDser	SShaffer
RidsNsirDsp	HAhn
RidsNsirDspDdrsr	GBagchi
RidsNsirDpr	CCox
DHuyck	JHoch
RidsNroDserRgs1	RHarvey
EWeiss	STammara
BMusico	WWang
DBarss	TTerry
CMunson	YLi
ZCruz	GStirewalt
TCheng	SGonzalez

ESP Southern Nuclear - Vogtle Mailing List

cc:

Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch
Nuclear and Chemical Preparedness
and Protection Division
Dept of Homeland Security
1800 South Bell St., Room 837
Crystal City-Arlington, VA 22202-3546

Attorney General
Law Department
132 Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mr. Laurence Bergen
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
P.O. Box 1349
Tucker, GA 30085-1349

Mr. M. Stanford Blanton
Esquire
Balch and Bingham, LLP
P.O. Box 306
Birmingham, AL 35201

Ms. Michele Boyd
Legislative Director
Energy Program
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy
and Environmental Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

County Commissioner
Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. James Davis
ESP Project Engineer
Southern Nuclear Company
PO Box 1295, BIN B056
Birmingham, AL 35201

Director
Consumer's Utility
Counsel Division
Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Plaza Level East, Suite 356
Atlanta, GA 30334-4600

Mr. Arthur H. Dombay, Esquire
Troutman Sanders
Nations Bank Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30308-2216

Mr. Marvin Fertel
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Jeffrey T. Gasser
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

ESP Southern Nuclear - Vogtle Mailing List

O. C. Harper, IV
Vice President - Resources Planning and
Nuclear Development
Georgia Power Company
241 Ralph McGill Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30308

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

Mr. Dale M. Lloyd
Vogtle Deployment Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Dr. Gail H. Marcus
U.S. Department of Energy
Room 5A-143
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Mr. Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mr. Thomas Moorer
ESP Project Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.
PO Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Charles R. Pierce
ESP Project Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.
PO Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Resident Inspector
Vogtle Plant
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Resident Manager
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Jerry Smith
Commissioner
District 8
Augusta-Richmond County Commission
1332 Brown Road
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

ESP Southern Nuclear - Vogtle Mailing List

Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
APH@NEI.org (Adrian Heymer)
arspears@southernco.com (Annie Spears)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
bennettS2@bv.com (Steve A. Bennett)
BrinkmCB@westinghouse.com (Charles Brinkman)
chris.maslak@ge.com (Chris Maslak)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
dlochbaum@UCSUSA.org (David Lochbaum)
frankq@hursttech.com (Frank Quinn)
greshaja@westinghouse.com (James Gresham)
jgutierrez@morganlewis.com (Jay M. Gutierrez)
jim.riccio@wdc.greenpeace.org (James Riccio)
JJNesrsta@cpsenergy.com (James J. Nesrsta)
john.o'neil@pillsburylaw.com (John O'Neil)
Joseph.savage@ge.com (Joseph Savage)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
jtdavis@southernco.com (Jim Davis)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lynchs@gao.gov (Sarah Lynch - Meeting Notices Only)
MaddenG@BV.com (George Madden)
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)
mark.beaumont@wsms.com (Mark Beaumont)
matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)
mcaston@southernco.com (Moanica Caston)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
mike_moran@fpl.com (Mike Moran)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
phinnen@entergy.com (Paul Hinnenkamp)
pshastings@duke-energy.com (Peter Hastings)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
RKTemple@cpsenergy.com (R.K. Temple)
roberta.swain@ge.com (Roberta Swain)
ronald.hagen@eia.doe.gov (Ronald Hagen)
sandra.sloan@areva.com (Sandra Sloan)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov (Tom Miller)
tomccall@southernco.com (Tom McCallum)
Vicki_Hull@dom.com (Vicki Hull)
waraksre@westinghouse.com (Rosemarie E. Waraks)