

July 16, 2008

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

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENT TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IN RELATION TO THE  
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC  
GENERATING PLANT

Dear Mr. Miller:

By letter dated March 28, 2008, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received an application from the Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Southern) for a combined license (COL) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Site. In support of the application and in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 52, Southern submitted an environmental report (ER).

The NRC has prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) advising the public that the NRC intends to gather information necessary to prepare a supplement to the Early Site Permit (ESP) environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of the review of the application for the VEGP COL. Enclosed is a copy of the NOI, which has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Southern is invited to participate in the public outreach meeting to be held on Thursday, July 17, 2008. The NRC will present an overview of the safety and environmental review process and will describe how the process will be implemented for the review of the VEGP COL application. The meeting will be held on July 17, 2008 at the Augusta Technical College, Waynesboro Campus Auditorium, 216 Hwy 24 South, Waynesboro, GA 30830. A separate NRC meeting notice with a detailed agenda was issued on July 3, 2008.

J. A. Miller

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Additionally, NRC staff and contractors plan to be onsite August 11-15, 2008, to discuss the background details of the preparation of the supplement to the ESP EIS with members of your staff and to perform a walk down of the site and its environs and to review documentation. Additional details regarding the site visit will be provided to your staff before the visit. In the interim, should you have any questions regarding the environmental review process, please contact the NRC's Environmental Project Manager, Mark Notich at 301-415-3053 or John Fringer at 301-415-6208. You may also e-mail us at [mark.notich@nrc.gov](mailto:mark.notich@nrc.gov) or [john.fringer@nrc.gov](mailto:john.fringer@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Scott Flanders, Director  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

J. A. Miller

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Scott Flanders, Director  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

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DATE	06/27/08	07/14 /08	06/27/08	06/27/08	07/09 /08	07/ 10/08	07/16/08

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NOS. 52-025 and 52-026

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENT TO

ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT STATEMENT

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) has submitted an application for a combined license (COL) for its Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP or Vogtle) Site to build Units 3 and 4, located in Burke County, Georgia, approximately 15 miles east-northeast of Waynesboro and 26 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia. The COL application references the Early Site Permit application for the VEGP site, which has been docketed but not issued. The application for the COL was submitted by letter dated March 28, 2008, pursuant to the requirements of Title 10, Part 52. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the Federal Register on May 5, 2008 (73 FR 24616). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing a supplement to the Early Site Permit (ESP) environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of the review of the COL application, as required by 10 CFR 51.92(b).

In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8(c), "Coordination with The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended," the NRC staff intends to use the documentation required for the preparation of a supplement to the ESP EIS to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR §§ 800.3 through 800.6.



In accordance with 10 CFR 51.45 and 10 CFR 51.50, Southern submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 51 and 52 and is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides access through the NRC's Electronic Reading Room link. The accession number in ADAMS for the ER is ML081050181. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by sending an e-mail to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). The application may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/vogtle.html>. In addition, the Burke County Library in Waynesboro, Georgia has agreed to make the ER available for public inspection.

The following key reference documents related to the COL application and the NRC staff's review process are available through the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov>:

- a. 10 CFR Part 51, Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions,
- b. 10 CFR Part 52, Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants,
- c. 10 CFR Part 100, Reactor Site Criteria,
- d. NUREG-1555, Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants,
- e. NUREG/BR-0298, Brochure on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process,
- f. Fact Sheet on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process,
- g. Regulatory Guide 4.2, Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Stations,
- h. Regulatory Guide 1.206, Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants, and
- i. NRR Office Instruction LIC-203, Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues.

The regulations, NUREG-series documents, regulatory guides, and fact sheet can be found under Document Collections in the Electronic Reading Room on the NRC Web page. Finally, Office Instruction LIC-203 can be found in ADAMS in two parts under accession numbers ML011710073 (main text) and ML011780314 (charts and figures).

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a supplement to the ESP EIS in support of the review of the application for the COL at the Vogtle COL Site.

This notice is being published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended and NRC regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51. In accordance with 10 CFR 52.26(c), Southern submitted the application for a COL for the VEGP Site referencing its Early Site Permit (ESP) application for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant that has been docketed but not yet issued. Additionally, the COL application was submitted to the NRC prior to the issuance of the final EIS (FEIS) for an ESP at the VEGP Site as is also allowed by 10 CFR 52.26(c). The FEIS for an ESP at the VEGP Site is scheduled to be issued on August 22, 2008. The NRC will prepare a Supplement to the FEIS for an ESP at the VEGP Site in accordance with 10 CFR 51.92(b), which will address the issues enumerated in 10 CFR 51.92(e), as applicable. The staff will not conduct scoping for the Supplement to the FEIS for an ESP at the VEGP Site in accordance with 10 CFR 51.92(d) which states that a scoping process for a supplement to an FEIS is not required.

Notice of a hearing regarding the application for a COL will be the subject of a future Federal Register notice. The staff will prepare and issue for comment the draft supplement to the EIS (DSEIS), which will be the subject of a separate Federal Register notice and a separate public meeting. A copy of the DSEIS will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned address and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC staff will prepare a Final Supplement to the EIS

(FSEIS), (which will also be available for public inspection). Information about the COL application or the proposed supplement to the EIS may be obtained from Mr. Mark Notich, Environmental Project Manager, 301-415-3053 or [mark.notich@nrc.gov](mailto:mark.notich@nrc.gov) .

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15 th day of July 2008.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**/RA/**

Scott Flanders  
Division Director  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors