

J. Bernie Beasley, Jr., P.E.
Vice President
Vogtle Project

**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
40 Inverness Center Parkway
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Tel 205.992.7110
Fax 205.992.0403



September 19, 2000

LCV-1477

Docket Nos: 50-424
50-425

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
DELETION OF COMMITMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF
STEAM GENERATOR SECONDARY MANWAY BOLTS**

By way of this letter, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) is providing notification of its intent to remove the requirement to replace the steam generator secondary manway bolts prior to 14.5 years of operation. The basis for this is provided below.

On March 22, 1993, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Amendment 60 to Facility Operating License NPF-68 and Amendment 39 to Facility Operating License NPF-81 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP). The amendments modified the Licenses and Technical Specifications to increase the maximum core power level from 3411 megawatts thermal to 3565 megawatts thermal.

Section 2.6 of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) discusses the structural design of the steam generators. Of specific interest is the discussion of the fatigue life of the steam generator secondary manway bolts. During the analyses to support the above-mentioned license amendments, it was demonstrated that the fatigue life of these bolts was reduced from the original 20 years to 14.5 years. The SER references our commitment to replace the bolts prior to 14.5 years of plant service. Based on this schedule, the first bolts due for replacement will be during the Unit 1 refueling outage in Fall 2000.

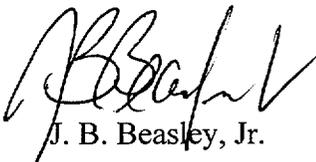
Recently, Westinghouse has re-evaluated the fatigue life of the steam generator secondary manway bolts. The evaluation considered the actual load cycles for each unit. The operating experience at both VEGP units has been that the operating transients have occurred at a much lower frequency than originally estimated. As a

A001

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
LCV-1477
Page 2

result, the bolts have been accumulating fatigue usage at a much lower rate. The use of the actual load cycle to establish the number of cycles provides relief for the replacement schedule of the bolts. The results of the evaluation demonstrate that the steam generator secondary manway bolts will not require replacement during the licensed life of both VEGP units.

Sincerely,



J. B. Beasley, Jr.

JBB/RJF

Attachment

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. J. T. Gasser
Mr. M. Sheibani
SNC Document Management

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
Mr. Ramin R. Assa, Vogtle Project Manager, NRR
Mr. J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector, Vogtle