

June 6, 2001

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: ISSUANCE
OF AMENDMENTS (TAC NOS. MB1097 AND MB1098)

Dear Mr. Beasley:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 122 to Facility Operating License NPF-68 and Amendment No. 100 to Facility Operating License NPF-81 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated January 11, 2001.

The amendments revise TS 5.5.17, "Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program," to add an exception to Regulatory Guide 1.163 related to visual examination of containment concrete surfaces.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. A Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard Olshan, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 122 to NPF-68
2. Amendment No. 100 to NPF-81
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
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Company, Inc.
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Accession Number: ML011570674

OFFICE	PDII-1/PM	PDII-1/LA	DE/EMEB	OGC	PDII-1/SC
NAME	LOlshan:cn	CHawes	HAshtar	RHoefling	REmch
DATE	5/25/01	5/24/01		6/4/01	5/29/01

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC.

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA

CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 122
License No. NPF-68

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. NPF-68 filed by the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (the licensee), acting for itself, Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and City of Dalton, Georgia (the owners), dated January 11, 2001, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations as set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is hereby amended by page changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-68 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 122 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. Southern Nuclear shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Richard L. Emch, Jr., Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: June 6, 2001

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC.

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA

CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 100
License No. NPF-81

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 2 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. NPF-81 filed by the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (the licensee), acting for itself, Georgia Power Company Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and City of Dalton, Georgia (the owners), dated January 11, 2001, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations as set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is hereby amended by page changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-81 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 100 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. Southern Nuclear shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Richard L. Emch, Jr., Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: June 6, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 122

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-68

DOCKET NO. 50-424

AND

TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 100

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-81

DOCKET NO. 50-425

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

Insert

5.5-20

5.5-20

5.5-21

5.5-21

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 122 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-68
AND AMENDMENT NO. 100 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-81
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC., ET AL.
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-424 AND 50-425

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated January 11, 2001, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., et al. (SNC, the licensee), proposed to revise the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The proposed change would revise TS 5.5.17, "Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program," to add an exception to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.163, "Performance-Based Containment Leak-Testing Program," dated September 1995, related to the visual examination of containment concrete surfaces.

2.0 EVALUATION

TS 5.5.17 requires that the Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program meet the guidelines contained in RG 1.163. RG 1.163 states, in part, that in order to allow for early uncovering of evidence of structural deterioration, visual examination of accessible interior and exterior surfaces should be conducted prior to initiating a Type A leak test and during two other refueling outages before the next Type A test if the interval for the Type A test has been extended to 10 years. This involves visual examinations of both the concrete outside of containment and the steel liner plate inside containment.

Moreover, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Section XI, Subsection IWL, which is incorporated by reference in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," requires a visual examination of concrete surfaces every five years. Subsection IWL requires that visual examinations be performed during power operation or during a refueling outage. However, RG 1.163 recommends that the visual examinations be performed during a refueling outage. In lieu of performing a series of concrete visual examinations pursuant to RG 1.163 and a separate series of concrete visual examinations pursuant to Subsection IWL, SNC proposed to take exception to RG 1.163 with respect to the concrete visual examinations and rely on the concrete visual examination requirements and frequency specified in Subsection IWL to meet the intent of RG 1.163.

The licensee stated that the steel liner plate inside containment will continue to be visually examined three times in a 10-year interval in accordance with ASME Section XI, Subsection IWE. The visual examination requirements and frequency specified by IWE for the liner plate meet the intent of RG 1.163 without exception. The licensee is proposing to add the following paragraph to TS 5.5.17 that will state its exception to RG 1.163:

The visual examination of containment concrete surfaces intended to fulfill the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Option B testing, will be performed in accordance with the requirements of and frequency specified by ASME Section Code, Subsection IWL, except where relief has been authorized by the NRC. At the discretion of the licensee, the containment concrete visual examinations may be performed during either power operation, e.g., performed concurrently with other containment inspection-related activities such as tendon testing, or during a maintenance/refueling outage.

In order to understand how the schedules are coordinated for the various examination requirements (i.e., the examination of containment concrete surfaces, the examination and testing of the containment post-tensioning system as required by Subsection IWL, the examination of the containment steel liner as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(ix)(E), and Appendix J, Type A tests), the staff discussed this issue with the licensee on April 18, 2001. The licensee clarified that the expedited concrete containment examinations (IWE and IWL), as required by the August 1996 amended rule, were planned to be completed by September 2001 as required by the regulations. Future examinations will be in accordance with the time interval, as required by Subsections IWE and IWL. The examination and testing of the post-tensioning system will continue to be performed every five years in accordance with the schedule in Section 5.5.6 of the TS and do not necessarily coincide with either the containment concrete examination or the steel liner examination. The licensee plans to perform the Appendix J, Type A test in spring of 2002.

The basic intent of the requirement for visual examination in Regulatory Position C.3 of RG 1.163 is to allow for early discovery of evidence of structural deterioration when Option B of Appendix J is used for containment Type A leak rate testing. On the basis that the licensee is implementing the requirements of Subsection IWL for discovery of structural deterioration of containment concrete twice in 10 years, the staff agrees with the licensee's position that performing additional visual examination in accordance with RG 1.163 would be considered an unnecessary activity without a commensurate increase in the level of quality and safety. Thus the NRC staff concludes that the proposed change to TS 5.5.17 regarding inspection of containment concrete is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Georgia State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change requirements with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and change surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts and no significant change in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (66 FR 22033). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: H. Ashar
L. Olshan

Date: June 6, 2001

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

Mr. J. A. Bailey
Manager, Licensing
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Mr. J. Gasser
General Manager, Vogtle Electric
Generating Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1600
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Office of Planning and Budget
Room 615B
270 Washington Street, SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mr. J. D. Woodard
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

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

Harold Reheis, Director
Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, SE. Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Attorney General
Law Department
132 Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mr. J. D. Sharpe
Resident Manager
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant
P. O. Box 1600
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Charles A. Patrizia, Esquire
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
10th Floor
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004-9500

Arthur H. Domby, Esquire
Troutman Sanders
NationsBank Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, NE.
Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216

Resident Inspector
Vogtle Plant
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

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