



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr., Vice President  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT  
50-424/2001-301 AND 50-425/2001-301

Dear Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.:

On May 24, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed administration of operating examinations to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 1 and 2. The enclosed report documents the examination results and findings which were discussed on May 24, 2001, with Mr. G. Frederick, Mr. P. Rushton, and other members of your staff.

Four Reactor Operator and seven Senior Reactor Operator applicants passed both the written and operating examinations.

No findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

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Michael E. Ernstes, Chief  
Operator Licensing and  
Human Performance Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-424, 50-425  
License Nos.: NPF-68, NPF-81

Enclosure: (See page 2)

Enclosure: Examination Report

cc w/encl:

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 50-424 and 50-425

License Nos.: NPF-68 and NPF-81

Report No.: 50-424/2001-301 and 50-425/2001-301

Licensee: Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC)

Facility: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 & 2

Location: 7821 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Dates: Operating Tests - May 15 - 23, 2001  
Written Examination - May 14, 2001

Examiners: G. Hopper, Chief License Examiner  
C. Payne, License Examiner  
K. O'Donohue, License Examiner  
G. Laska, License Examiner

Approved by: M. Ernstes, Chief  
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000424-01-301, ER 05000425-01-301, on 5/14-24/2001, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 & 2.

The operator licensing initial examinations were developed by the NRC and administered by NRC examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. The examination implemented the operator licensing requirements of 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45.

Four Reactor Operator (RO) applicants and seven Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants were administered written examinations and operating tests. All of the applicants passed the examination and were issued operator licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered.

No findings of significance were identified.

## Report Details

### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

#### **4OA5** Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

##### a. Scope

Operating tests and written examinations were developed by the NRC, in accordance with NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. The draft examinations were reviewed by the licensee for validation and comment. Examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were made according to NUREG-1021 and incorporated into the final version of the examination materials. The NRC administered the approved operating tests during the period of May 15 - 23, 2001 to four Reactor Operator (RO) applicants and seven Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants. The licensee staff administered the approved written examination on May 14, 2001. The examiners reviewed the examination security measures to ensure examination security and integrity were maintained by the licensee.

##### b. Issues and Findings

Four RO and seven SRO applicants passed both examinations and were issued operator licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered.

No findings of significance were identified. However, the examiners noted a generic weakness of knowledge and familiarity with 4160 volt breaker operations by the SRO instant applicants. The applicants were unfamiliar with the breaker internal parts and nomenclature, and experienced great difficulty racking the breaker into the CONNECTED position from the TEST position. Additionally, nine of eleven applicants experienced difficulty in taking the necessary actions to prevent damage to the CVCS demineralizer resin when the divert valve failed to divert on a high inlet temperature condition. The applicants failed to notice that the automatic divert feature failed to actuate when required, or if they noticed, took no action to manually divert flow to the Volume Control Tank to protect the resin.

Details of each applicant's deficiencies are described in the individual's examination report, Form ES-303-1, "Operator Licensing Examination Report." Copies of these evaluations were forwarded under separate cover to the Training Manager to allow evaluation of noted deficiencies so appropriate remedial training may be provided, as necessary.

The licensee was provided a copy of the as-given written examinations (ADAMS Accession Number ML011640048.) The licensee did not submit any post examination comments.

#### **40A6** Meetings

##### Exit Meeting Summary

The Chief Examiner presented the preliminary examination results on May 24, 2001, to members of licensee management. The licensee acknowledged the examination results presented.

The inspectors asked the licensee whether any materials examined during the inspection should be considered proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

##### LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

R. Brown, Training and Emergency Preparedness Manager  
B. Dunn, Shift Superintendent  
G. Frederick, Assistant General Manager Operations  
G. Gunn, Nuclear Specialist  
T. Polito, Operations Training Supervisor  
P. Rushton, Assistant General Manager Plant Support  
D. Scukanec, Senior Instructor  
M. Sheibani, Nuclear Safety and Compliance Supervisor  
L. Zehner, Nuclear Specialist