

February 24, 1998

Mr. C. K. McCoy  
Vice President  
Southern Nuclear Operating  
Company, Inc.  
Post Office Box 1295  
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4); VOGTLE  
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA0747 AND  
MA0748)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant  
Impact" related to your request dated January 23, 1998, for an exemption for the Vogtle Electric  
Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, from a requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to  
the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) 6 months after each refueling outage. This  
assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

David H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

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UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Dear Mr. McCoy:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request dated January 23, 1998, for an exemption for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, from a requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) 6 months after each refueling outage. This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Jaffe", is written over a horizontal line.

David H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

## Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

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Burke County Commission  
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-424 AND 50-425

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) update requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.71(e)(4), for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-68 and NPF-81 issued to Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., et al. (the licensee) for operation of the Vogtle Nuclear Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 1 and 2, located in Burke County, Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the VEGP, Units 1 and 2, FSAR. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would submit FSAR updates to the single, unified FSAR for the two units that comprise VEGP, within 6 months following the VEGP Unit 2 refueling outage, not to exceed 24 months from the last submittal.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated January 23, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would provide an exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4), which requires licensees to submit updates to their FSAR within 6 months after each refueling outage providing that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since VEGP, Units 1 and 2, share a common FSAR, the licensee must update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. Allowing the exemption would maintain the FSAR current within 24 months of the last revision and still would not exceed a 24-month interval for submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report for either unit.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that issuance of the proposed exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) will have no environmental impact. The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the VEGP, "Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2," NUREG-1087, dated March 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 10, 1998, the staff consulted with the Georgia State official, Mr. J. Setzer, of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

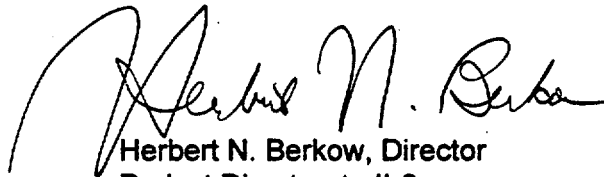
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated January 23, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Burke County Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of February 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herbert N. Berkow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "B".

Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation