

June 28, 2002

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: REQUEST
FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
(TAC NOS. MB3568 AND MB3569)

Dear Mr. Beasley:

By letters dated February 11 and May 27, 2002, Southern Nuclear Operating Company submitted two affidavits dated January 30 and May 15, 2002, executed by Westinghouse Electric Company, requesting that the following documents be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 2.790:

(a) Westinghouse Electric Company, L.L.C. entitled "Response to NRC Questions on OTDT [Over Temperature Delta Temperature] Clamp License Amendment Request for Vogtle Units 1 and 2."

(b) Westinghouse Electric Company Nuclear Services entitled "Responses to NRC Follow-up Questions on OTDT Clamp License Amendment Request for Vogtle Units 1 and 2."

Nonproprietary copies of these documents have been placed in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) public document room and added to the Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems Publicly Available Records System (ADAMS PARS) Library.

The affidavits state that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- (a) The use of such information by Westinghouse gives Westinghouse a competitive advantage over its competitors. It is, therefore, withheld from disclosure to protect the Westinghouse competitive position.
- (b) It is information, which is marketable in many ways. The extent to which such information is available to competitors diminishes the Westinghouse ability to sell products and services involving the use of the information.
- (c) Use by our competitors would put Westinghouse at a competitive disadvantage by reducing his expenditure of resources at our expense.

- (d) Each component of proprietary information pertinent to a particular competitive advantage is potentially as valuable as the total competitive advantage. If competitors acquire components of proprietary information, any one component may be the key to the entire puzzle, thereby depriving Westinghouse of a competitive advantage.
- (e) Unrestricted disclosure would jeopardize the position of prominence Westinghouse in the world market, and thereby give a market advantage to the competition of those countries.
- (f) The Westinghouse capacity to invest corporate assets in research and development depends upon the success in obtaining and maintaining a competitive advantage.

We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the submitted documents marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-1447.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Frank Rinaldi, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

cc: See next page

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

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