

June 14, 2002

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - REPLY TO
RESPONSE TO ORDER FOR INTERIM SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY
COMPENSATORY MEASURES (TAC NOS. MB4193 AND MB4194)

Dear Mr. Beasley:

On February 25, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued an Order modifying the operating license for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (VEGP) to require compliance with the specified interim safeguards and security compensatory measures. The interim compensatory measures (ICMs) were listed in Attachment 2 to the Order. When issuing the Order, the Commission recognized that you have voluntarily and responsibly implemented additional security measures following the events of September 11, 2001, but in light of the continuing generalized high-level threat environment, the Commission concluded that the security measures should be embodied in an Order consistent with the established regulatory framework.

The Order required responses and actions within specified timeframes. Section III.A of the Order required licensees to immediately start implementation of the requirements listed in Attachment 2 to the Order and to complete implementation no later than August 31, 2002. Section III.B of the Order required licensees to notify the Commission: (1) if they are unable to comply with the requirements described in Attachment 2, (2) if compliance with any of the requirements is unnecessary in their specific circumstances, (3) if implementation of any of the requirements would cause the licensee to be in violation of the provisions of any Commission regulation or the facility license, or (4) if implementation of any of the requirements described in Attachment 2 would adversely impact the safe operation of the facility. Section III.C.1 of the Order required licensees to submit to the Commission, within 20 days of the date of the Order, a schedule for achieving compliance with each requirement described in Attachment 2 to the Order. Section IV of the Order noted that in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 2.202, the licensee must submit an answer to the Order and may request a hearing on the Order within 20 days of the date of the Order and, where good cause is shown, consideration would be given to extend the time to request a hearing.

In letters dated March 18, 2002 (Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) letter nos. LCV-1604 and LCV-1604-A), you submitted a response to the Order for VEGP. On May 8, 2002 (SNC letter no. LCV 1604-C), you provided supplementary information for VEGP. Your letters requested an extension of time until August 31, 2002, to respond to ICMs B.1, B.2, and B.3.c. and requested a comparable extension of time to file a request for hearing for those matters.

The NRC staff has reviewed your responses to each of the ICMs and finds that you have satisfied the 20-day reporting requirements of the Order with the exception of ICM B.3.c. Accordingly, since you currently meet the reporting requirements of the Order, with the exception of ICM B.3.c, an extension of time to provide that information for ICMs B.1 and B.2 is not necessary and, therefore, is not granted. An extension of time is hereby granted until July 1, 2002, for your submission of the required response for ICM B.3.c. An extension of time is granted until July 1, 2002, for your filing of a request for a hearing related to ICMs B.1, B.2, and B.3.c.

The NRC will determine the effectiveness of your implementation of the ICMs through on-site inspections. I would like to remind you that, pursuant to Section III.C.2 of the Order, you are to provide a report to the Commission when you have achieved full compliance with the requirements described in Attachment 2 to the Order.

Please contact Frank Rinaldi at (301) 415-1447 if you have any other questions on these issues.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

cc: See next page

The NRC staff has reviewed your responses to each of the ICMs and finds that you have satisfied the 20-day reporting requirements of the Order with the exception of ICM B.3.c. Accordingly, since you currently meet the reporting requirements of the Order, with the exception of ICM B.3.c, an extension of time to provide that information for ICMs B.1 and B.2 is not necessary and, therefore, is not granted. An extension of time is hereby granted until July 1, 2002, for your submission of the required response for ICM B.3.c. An extension of time is granted until July 1, 2002, for your filing of a request for a hearing related to ICMs B.1, B.2, and B.3.c.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

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