



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

January 10, 2003

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

**SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT
50-424/2002-301 AND 50-425/2002-301**

Dear Mr. Gasser:

During the period of December 2-13, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating examinations to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 1 and 2. At the conclusion of the examination, the examiners discussed the examination questions and preliminary findings with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examination was administered by your staff on November 26, 2002.

Five reactor operator (RO) and six senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants passed both the written and operating examinations. One RO and two SRO applicants passed the written examination but failed the operating test. There were no post examination comments.

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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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

Enclosure: (See page 2)

Enclosure: Report Details

cc w/encl:

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 50-424, 50-425

License Nos.: DPR-68, DPR-81

Report Nos.: 50-424/02-301, 50-425/02-301

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

Facility: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 1 and 2

Location: 7821 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Dates: Operating Tests - December 2-13, 2002
Written Examination - November 26, 2002

Examiners: K. O'Donohue, Chief Examiner
G. Laska, Operations Engineer
R. Aiello, Operations Engineer

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

Enclosure

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000424/2002-301, ER 05000425/2002-301 on 12/02/2002 - 12/013/2002; Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, Licensed Operator Examinations.

The NRC examiners conducted the operator licensing initial examinations in accordance with the guidance of Examiner Standards, NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1. These examinations implemented the operator licensing requirements of 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period December 2-13, 2002. Members of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant training staff administered the written examination on November 26, 2002. The operator licensing initial written examinations were developed by the NRC. The operating tests were developed by the licensee and reviewed by the NRC. Five reactor operator (RO) and six senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants passed both the written and operating examinations and were issued operator licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered. One RO and two SRO applicants passed the written examinations but failed the operating tests.

No significant issues were identified.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The examiners developed the written examination and reviewed the operating examinations, developed by the licensee, for compliance with the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1.

The examiners reviewed the licensee's examination security measures while preparing and administering the examinations to ensure examination security and integrity complied with 10 CFR 55.49, Integrity of examinations and tests.

The examiners evaluated six RO and eight SRO applicants who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. They administered the operating tests during the period December 2-13, 2002. Members of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant training staff administered the written examination on November 26, 2002. The evaluations of the applicants and review of documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, met requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

The licensee did not submit any post examination comments concerning the written examination or operating test. The written examinations and answer keys may be accessed in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Number ML030070594 and ML030070603).

4OA6 Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

On December 13, 2002, the Chief Examiner discussed generic applicant performance and examination development issues with members of licensee management.

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

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

W. Bargeron, Assistant General Manager Operations
K. Holmes, Training Manager
L. Zehner, Nuclear Specialist
C. Meyer, Operations Superintendent
D. Scukanec, Senior Instructor

NRC

J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector
T. Morrissey, Resident Inspector
B. Bonser, Branch Chief