



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

January 24, 2003

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

**SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT - 50-424/03-301 AND
50-425/03-301**

Dear Mr. Gasser:

In a telephone conversation on January 22, 2003, between Mr. Lee Mansfield, Nuclear Operations Training Supervisor, Mr. Dan Scukanec, Senior Training Instructor and Mr. Timothy C. Kolb, Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing retake examinations at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant during the week of May 5, 2003 (operating test).

The NRC will prepare the operating test outlines based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the outlines during the week of February 24, 2003. The facility has agreed to fill in the scenario details (ES-D-2) and submit the details to the NRC for review during the week of March 24, 2003. The facility has also agreed to make all of the copies of the examination prior to administration.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the necessary reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 by February 14, 2003. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examination to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement

may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0101), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Dan Scukanec has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Timothy C. Kolb at (404) 562-4665, (Internet E-mail: tck@NRC.GOV), George Hopper at (404) 562-4545, (Internet E-mail: gth1@NRC.GOV), or myself at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: MEE@NRC.GOV).

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425
License Nos. NPF-68 and NPF-81

cc: (See page 3)

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