

Jeffrey T. Gasser
Vice President

Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201
Tel 205.992.7721
Fax 205.992.0403



May 7, 2004

Docket Nos.: 50-321 50-348 50-424
50-366 50-364 50-425

NL-04-0826

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Use of Encryption Software for Electronic Transmission of Safeguards Information

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), the licensed operator for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant and the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, hereby requests approval in accordance with 10 CFR 73.21(g)(3) to process and transmit Safeguards Information (SGI) using PGP Software Corporate Desktop Version 8.0 or the latest validated version, developed with PGP SDK 3.0.3. National Institute of Standards and Technology Certificate 394 validates compliance of this SDK with FIPS 140-2 requirements.

An information protection system for SGI that meets the requirements of 10 CFR 73.21(b) through (i) has been established and is being maintained. Prior to the first use of encryption software for SGI material, written procedures shall be in place to describe, as a minimum: access controls; where and when encrypted communications can be made; how encryption keys, codes and passwords will be protected from compromise; actions to be taken if the encryption keys, codes or passwords are, or are suspected to have been, compromised (for example, notification of all authorized users); and how the identity and access authorization of the recipient will be verified.

SNC intends to exchange SGI with the NRC, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and other SGI holders who have received NRC approval to use PGP software. Jerry Sims, Project Coordinator – Nuclear Security is responsible for the overall implementation of the SGI encryption program at SNC. He is also responsible for collecting, safeguarding, and disseminating the software tools needed for encryption and decryption of SGI.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.21(g)(3), the transmission of encrypted material to other authorized SGI holders, who have received NRC approval to use PGP software, would be considered a protected telecommunications system. The transmission and dissemination of unencrypted SGI is subject to the provisions of 10 CFR 73.21(g)(1) and (2).

5003

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NL-04-0826

Page 2

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jerry Sims at 205.992.5716.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey T. Gasser", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey T. Gasser

JTG/JMG/daj

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr., Executive Vice President
Mr. L. M. Stinson, Vice President, Plant Farley
Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr., Vice President, Plant Hatch
Mr. D. E. Grissette, General Manager – Plant Farley
Mr. G. R. Frederick, General Manager – Plant Hatch
Mr. W. F. Kitchens, General Manager – Plant Vogtle
RTYPE: CFA04.054; CHA02.004; CVC7000; LC# 13862

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
Mr. S. A. Morris, NISR
Ms. A. L. Silvius, NSIR
Mr. L. H. Grosman, OCIO
Mr. S. E. Peters, NRR Project Manager – Farley
Mr. C. Gratton, NRR Project Manager – Hatch
Mr. C. Gratton, NRR Project Manager – Vogtle
Mr. C. A. Patterson, Senior Resident Inspector – Farley
Mr. D. S. Simpkins, Senior Resident Inspector – Hatch
Mr. J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector – Vogtle