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Vice President

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December 10, 2004

Docket Nos.: 50-424
50-425

NL-04-2421

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

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Exemption Request for Biennial Emergency Exercise Postponed at FEMA Request

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), the licensee for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) had scheduled a plume and ingestion pathway exercise for September 22, 2004 to support the requirement for a biennial evaluated exercise. Due to the impact of Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, Georgia EMA and FEMA notified SNC that they would be unable to support the scheduled exercise. Subsequently, representatives from Georgia, South Carolina and FEMA have planned to jointly support a plume and ingestion pathway exercise in February 2005 (see Enclosure 1). The last biennial evaluated exercise for VEGP was conducted on June 12, 2002. Since that time, SNC has performed multiple drills and exercises to ensure that adequate emergency response capabilities have been maintained (see listing in Enclosure 2).

Based on the requirement of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E (F)(2)(e) to "enable any State or local Government located within the plume exposure pathway EPZ to participate" in such exercises, SNC requests an exemption in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v) to allow the date of February 23-24, 2005 as the next VEGP Plume and Ingestion Exposure Pathway Biennial Exercise. Following the completion of the 2004 exercise in 2005, VEGP will resume the normal biennial exercise cycle in 2006.

Should you have any questions, please contact Chris Boone at 205.992.6635.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don E. Grissette".

Don E. Grissette

DEG/JMG

- Enclosures: 1. DHS – FEMA letter to GEMA related to VEGP Exercise
2. VEGP Drills and Exercises Performed Since 2002

A045

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cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President
Mr. W. F. Kitchens, General Manager – Plant Vogtle
RType: CVC7000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dr. W. D. Travers, Regional Administrator
Mr. C. Gratton, NRR Project Manager – Vogtle
Mr. G. J. McCoy, Senior Resident Inspector – Vogtle

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341



FEMA

November 23, 2004

Mike G. Sherberger, Director
Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Post Office Box 18055
Atlanta, Georgia 30316-0055

Dear Mr. Sherberger:

The Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant Plume and Ingestion Pathway Exercise, originally scheduled for September 22, 2004, was postponed to enable the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to respond to multiple hurricanes, i.e., Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

After discussion with the States of Georgia and South Carolina, a proposal was made to reschedule the exercise date to February 2005. FEMA has reviewed this proposal and approves the February 23-24, 2005 date for the Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant Plume and ingestion exposure pathway exercise.

Should you have other questions, please contact me at 770/220-5486

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Burnside".

Conrad S. Burnside, Chief
National Preparedness
Technological Services Branch

cc: Patrick Cochran
GEMA REP Program Manager

VEGP Drills and Exercises Performed Since 2002

06/12/02 - VEGP Full Scale Plume Phase Biennial Exercise - Evaluated

09/24/02 - VEGP Drill

02/12/03 - VEGP Drill

05/28/03 - VEGP Drill

07/15/03 - VEGP Drill

11/05/03 - VEGP Full Scale Plume Phase Annual Exercise

02/18/04 - VEGP Drill

06/30/04 - VEGP Full Scale Plume Phase Annual Exercise

08/26/04 - VEGP Drill

11/08/04 - VEGP Off-hour/Unannounced Exercise

09/22/04 - VEGP Full Scale Plume Phase Biennial Exercise - Evaluated
(Postponed due to Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne)