June 3, 2005

Mr. D. E. Grissette
Vice President
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Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION (VOGTLE), UNIT 1 - SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE CALL REGARDING THE 2005 SPRING OUTAGE STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTIONS

Dear Mr. Grissette:

On March 28, 2005, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated in a conference call with Vogtle, Unit 1 representatives regarding the detection of crack-like indications in the portion of the steam generator tube within the tubesheet. The NRC staff is forwarding the enclosed summary for your information.

Sincerely,

/RA/
Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-424

Enclosure: March 28 Conference Call Summary

cc w/encl: See next page

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Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1

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MARCH 28, 2005 CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTIONS

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION (VOGTLE), UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-424

On March 28, 2005, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated in a conference call with Vogtle, Unit 1 representatives regarding it's steam generator (SG) tube inspections (particularly the finding of crack-like indications in the portion of tube confined within the tubesheet). A summary of the information discussed during the call is provided below.

Vogtle, Unit 1 has four model F SGs designed and fabricated by Westinghouse. The thermally treated Alloy 600 SG tubes have an outside diameter of 0.688-inch and a nominal wall thickness of 0.040-inch. The tubes are hydraulically expanded for the full depth of the tubesheet at each end and are supported by a number of stainless steel tube supports. In the U-bend region, the tubes are supported by anti-vibration bars. The tubes are arranged in a square pitch.

During the 2005 outage, tube inspections were planned for SGs 1 and 4. In the tubesheet region, a rotating probe equipped with a +Point™ coil was to be used to inspect the expansion transition region (from 3 inches above to 10 inches below the secondary face of the tubesheet) of 20 percent of the tubes. During this initial sample, circumferential indications initiating from the inside diameter of the tube were found in two of the tubes in SG 4. The indications were associated with bulges or over expansions. At Vogtle, a bulge is recorded at a certain location if the voltage of the bulge exceeds a threshold value (e.g., 18 volts). Similarly, a location is classified as overexpanded if the diameter of the bulged area exceeds the average diameter of the tube by a specified amount.

One of the affected tubes is located at Row 11 Column 88 (R11C88). In this tube, two circumferential indications were identified in a 170-volt bulge. The two indications were separated by approximately 170 degrees. The indications were confirmed to be present with a +Point™ coil, a Ghent probe (a transmit-receive probe), and a delta probe (a rotating probe with 3 coils). The indications are approximately 1.7 inches below the secondary face of the tubesheet, and the voltage associated with these indications is 0.72 volts. During the last inspection of this tube in 2002, there were no indications at this location.

The other affected tube is located at R6C101. In this tube, one circumferential indication was identified in a 109-volt bulge. The indication was confirmed to be present with a +Point™ coil, a Ghent probe (a transmit-receive probe), and a delta probe (a rotating probe with 3 coils). The indication is approximately 0.4 inches below the secondary face of the tubesheet, and the voltage associated with this indication is 0.7 volts. During the last inspection of this tube in 1999, there were no indications at this location.

As a result of the findings in SG 4, the scope of the rotating probe examinations in the tubesheet region was increased. In SG 4, 100 percent of the bulges and overexpanded tubes throughout the depth of the tubesheet will be inspected. In SGs 1, 2 and 3, a 20 percent sample of all the bulges and over expansions in the tubesheet region will be inspected. These

exams will be performed in the upper region (i.e., top 10 inches) of the tubesheet and on the more severe bulges and over expansions. If a crack-like indication is detected in this sample, the examinations in the affected SG will be expanded to include a 100 percent of the bulges and over expansions throughout the depth of the tubesheet.

The number of tubes with bulges and over expansions in each of the SGs was estimated as follows: 201 in SG 1, 446 in SG 2, 123 in SG 3, 177 in SG 4.

At the end of the call, the NRC staff asked to be notified if any additional crack-like indications were identified. The NRC staff did not identify any issues associated with the licensee's planned inspections to address the finding of crack-like indications in bulged and overexpanded tubes in the tubesheet region.