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Energy to Serve Your WorldSM

February 11, 2005

NL-05-0189

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

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Early Site Permit Application Activities

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Southern Nuclear) is currently investigating the feasibility of preparing an Early Site Permit (ESP) pursuant to 10 CFR 52 at one of our sites. Final site selection and other aspects of the ESP application development are yet to be decided. Although a final site selection has not been made, Southern Nuclear is currently working toward submitting a single ESP application to the NRC in the summer of 2006. Thus, Southern Nuclear is advising the NRC of its expectations at this time so that the NRC can commit sufficient resources for the application review. Southern Nuclear does plan to request a meeting with the NRC to discuss certain aspects of this future submittal sometime early in 2006.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Charles R. Pierce at (205) 992-7872.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Louis B. Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Louis B. Long

LBL/JMG

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. W. D. Beckner, Program Director, New Research and Test Reactors

Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President

Ms. B. C. Terry, Vice President and General Counsel

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Mr. C. R. Pierce, Project Manager

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Mr. B. L. Fuller, Technology Development Supervisor