

September 13, 2005

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Dear Mr. Beasley:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated August 17, 2005, in which you stated that Georgia Power Company has directed Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) to pursue an early site permit/combined operating license at the existing Vogtle Electric Generating Plant site. NRC considers early communication an essential element in planning effectively for new reactor licensing applications.

In response to your earlier letter of July 26, 2005, the NRC staff has been working with SNC in preparation for an early site permit application submittal in the summer of 2006. The NRC appreciates the additional information you provided in your August 17 letter and will continue working with SNC on your planned submittal.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz