

June 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Evangelos C. Marinos, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Christopher Gratton, Senior Project Manager */RA/*
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 -
FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OF DRAFT REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI) (TAC NOS. MD1805 AND
MD1806)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff transmitted the enclosed draft RAI by facsimile to Mr. Jack Stringfellow of the Southern Nuclear Operating Company on May 31, 2006. The question supports the review of the licensee's request for relaxation in a letter dated May 18, 2006. The licensee requested to relax inspection coverage requirements for specific penetration nozzles at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. No conference call was needed to clarify the information requested in the draft RAI. This memorandum and the enclosed draft RAI do not convey or represent an NRC staff position regarding the licensee's request.

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosure: Draft Request for Additional Information sent May 31, 2006

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DATE	6/19/06	6/16/06	06/28/06

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DRAFT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
FIRST REVISED ORDER EA-03-009 RELAXATION REQUEST,
ALTERNATE EXAMINATION COVERAGE
FOR REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATION PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATION COMPANY, INC.
DOCKET NUMBERS 50-424 AND 50-425

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The First Revised NRC Order EA-03-009 (Order), issued on February 20, 2004, requires specific examinations of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head and vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles of all pressurized water reactor plants. Section IV.F of the Order states that requests for relaxation of the Order associated with specific penetration nozzles will be evaluated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff using the procedure for evaluating proposed alternatives to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Section 50.55a(a)(3). Section IV.F of the Order states that a request for relaxation regarding inspection of specific nozzles shall address the following criteria: (1) the proposed alternative(s) for inspection of specific nozzles will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or (2) compliance with this Order for specific nozzles would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

In a letter dated May 18, 2006, Southern Nuclear Generation Company, Inc. (the licensee), requested relaxation for an alternative examination in accordance with the requirements of Section IV.F of the Order dated February 20, 2004.

2.0 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NRC staff requests that the licensee submit the stress and fracture mechanics analysis that is summarized in the table on page 10 of the licensee's attachment to letter dated May 18, 2006. A NRC staff review of the stress and fracture mechanics analysis is necessary to verify licensee's basis for alternative examination requirements proposed in the relaxation request.

To meet the schedule requested in the licensee's May 18, 2006 submittal, the NRC staff requests the additional information be provided by June 28, 2006.

Enclosure