

September 14, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephanie Coffin, Branch Chief
AP1000/EPR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Christian J. Araguas, Project Manager **/RA/**
AP1000/EPR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN NUCLEAR EARLY SITE PERMIT PRE-APPLICATION
REVIEW - SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CALL HELD ON JULY 5, 2006,
TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LIMITED WORK AUTHORIZATION (LWA)
ACTIVITIES

This memorandum documents the results of a telephone conference between the NRC staff and Southern Nuclear Operating Company on July 5, 2006.

A summary of the call is attached.

Project No. 737

cc: Christian Araguas
Mark Notich
Stephanie Coffin
Chris Gratton
Jerry Wilson
Steve Bloom

Telephone Call Summary

Subject: Discussion of Potential LWA Activities Associated with the Expected Vogtle Early Site Permit Application

Date of Call: July 5, 2006

Participants

NRC

Christian Araguas
Mark Notich
Stephanie Coffin
Chris Gratton
Jerry Wilson
Steve Bloom

Pre-Applicant

Tom McCallum
Charles Pierce
Jim Davis
Tom Moorer

Actions

Topic

Pre-Submittal
Conference Call

NRC

Followup phone call with applicant to provide final decision on SNC's future activities

Applicant

Provide a list of other scheduled potential LWA activities

Provide a schedule with COL activities

Other Discussion

On July 5, 2006, the staff held a telephone call with Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) to discuss potential issues related to their Vogtle ESP application submittal. During a May 2006 site visit at Vogtle, SNC revealed to the staff its plans to re-route a transmission line of the existing units. Currently the existing transmission lines run through where the proposed Unit 3 would go. The transmission lines, before and after this re-route, will continue to support the existing units only. SNC stated that they plan to do this work in the fall of 2008, before issuance of the ESP. Their position is that this work is being done to support Units 1 & 2 and therefore falls under 10 CFR Part 50, and is not considered by them to be an LWA activity. SNC stated that they plan to perform a 50.59 review and will ensure the activity is consistent with their existing site environmental protection plan. The staff agreed that the 50.59 and environment plan reviews were appropriate but disagreed with their position that the transmission line re-route was not an LWA activity because the work is being done to prepare for construction of Units 3 & 4. The staff stated that its position was that this activity would not meet 50.10(c) and therefore could not begin until issuance of an LWA, either with the ESP or during COL review.

The staff ended the call with an action item to speak with OGC and management and agreed to have a followup phone call to discuss this issue further. SNC indicated they have other, similar activities planned and agreed to provide us with a list of and schedule for these activities.

During the same teleconference, SNC raised a second issue. SNC stated that it would like to begin excavating for the proposed two new units which it would request under an LWA-1 in the ESP. SNC said that it would like to start laying down the 65 ft of engineered backfill immediately upon completion of the excavation in order to avoid groundwater and dewatering problems and also so that they are ready to commence construction activities upon issuance of the COL. Initially SNC said that it was thinking about submitting an LWA-2 for this activity but fears that it would not be granted on a schedule that meet their needs, so they would like to explore other options. The staff requested that SNC provide a table laying out the time frames for all LWA activities and construction activities to have a better understanding of SNC's concern. The staff agreed to have a followup telephone call with SNC to discuss this issue further.

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