



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

July 27, 2006

Mr. J. A. (Buzz) Miller  
Senior Vice President - Nuclear Development  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
40 Inverness Center Parkway  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR COMPANY QUALITY ASSURANCE  
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FOR EARLY SITE PERMIT

Dear Mr. Miller:

This letter documents the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's plan to perform an inspection of the Southern Nuclear Company (SNC) quality assurance program as it pertains to activities conducted for your early site permit (ESP) application. As discussed previously in a telephone call, the inspectors plan to be at your Birmingham, AL facility beginning Monday, August 28, 2006 and will conduct an inspection through Friday, September 1, 2006. Enclosure 1 is a schedule of inspection activities. Enclosure 2 is a request for the documents the staff will require to be available to conduct the inspection. Subsequent to the inspection, a report will be issued and transmitted to you via letter. The lead inspector for this effort is Mr. Peter Van Doorn; you may contact him at (404) 562-4643, (Internet E-mail: pkv@nrc.gov).

The following project number has been assigned to your ESP: 737. Please reference this number on any correspondence sent to the NRC. A docket number will be assigned once the NRC has accepted the application.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mark S. Lesser, Chief  
Engineering Branch 3  
Division of Reactor Safety

Project No.: 737

Enclosures: 1. ESP QA Controls Inspection Schedule  
2. Documentation Request for the Southern Nuclear Company (SNC) Early Site Permit (ESP) Inspection

cc w/encls: See next page

SNC

2

cc w/encls:

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Project No.: 737

- Enclosures: 1. ESP QA Controls Inspection Schedule  
2. Documentation Request for the Southern Nuclear Company (SNC) Early Site Permit (ESP) Inspection

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE       NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE       SENSITIVE       NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: X Yes      ACCESSION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

|              |                     |          |           |          |          |          |
|--------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| OFFICE       | RII:DRS             | RII:DRS  | RII:DRP   |          |          |          |
| SIGNATURE    | /RA By MLesser for/ | /RA/     | /RA/      |          |          |          |
| NAME         | KVanDoorn           | MLesser  | SShaeffer |          |          |          |
| DATE         | 7/ /2006            | 7/ /2006 | 7/ /2006  | 7/ /2006 | 7/ /2006 | 7/ /2006 |
| E-MAIL COPY? | YES NO              | YES NO   | YES NO    | YES NO   | YES NO   | YES NO   |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY      DOCUMENT NAME: E:\Filenet\ML062080413.wpd

## ESP QA Controls Inspection Schedule

Monday 08/28

Travel to Birmingham, ALA.

Entrance Meeting at 2:00pm CST

Introductions and discussion of inspection schedule

Begin Licensee Overview Presentation:

- Applicant's Applied Quality Assurance Controls
- Contractor's Applied Quality Assurance Controls
- Justification for Elements of QA Controls not Applied
- Review of Issues that were either 1) found unacceptable, 2) not examined because QA manual provisions were identified as unacceptable, or 3) not examined because related activities were not in progress during the pre-application inspection, but were underway during the post-application inspection.

Tuesday 08/29

Continue Licensee Overview Presentation

Review of schedule of licensee's proposed ESP milestones and discussion of possible review by the staff of selected activities

Tuesday 08/29

Morning Review of QA implementing guidelines and procedures

Afternoon Review of QA implementing guidelines and procedures  
Review applicant/contractor surveillance activities

Wednesday 08/30

Morning Review design controls (applicant to have procedures available for review)

Afternoon Review applicant/contractor surveillance activities

Thursday 08/31

Morning Review applicant/contractor training guidance and associated records

Afternoon Review QA audits conducted of selected activities  
Review applicant/contractor surveillance activities  
Hold detailed pre-brief summary of inspection findings with applicant

Friday 09/01

Exit Meeting: 9:00am CST

Administrative Items

Team Members: Peter Van Doorn (Team Leader), Milton Concepcion-Robles, Steve  
Dennis, Kenneth Heck, Barry Miller, Paul Prescott

Scheduled Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

TAC No.: MC8119

NOTE: Schedule subject to change at Team Leader's discretion

## **Documentation Request for the Southern Nuclear Company (SNC) Early Site Permit (ESP) Inspection**

SNC is requested to provide the following information to support the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's ESP Quality Assurance (QA) Controls Inspection in support of the ESP application acceptance review.

1. Applicant's implemented quality assurance controls applied to site characterization data collection and analysis.
2. Applicant's procedures used to implement quality controls. This would include any ESP project planning documents.
3. A description and schedule for site evaluations or specific analyses performed at the proposed site.
4. If published data sources will be used to collect site data, rather than the performance of measurement, please identify and describe these data sources (i.e., meteorological, seismic, etc).
5. Identification of contractors used for performing ESP related activities and for what purpose.
  - a. Description of quality controls applied to contractor activities and procedures for implementing those controls
  - b. Any procurement documents associated with the services contracted for ESP activities.
6. Schedule of significant site activities/milestones for both the applicant and contractor(s).
7. Training lesson plans developed for the applicant's staff related to ESP activities and associated training records.
  - a. Training lesson plans for contractors responsible for data collection
  - b. Qualification records for SNC personnel and contractors.
8. The NRC team will need access to examples of data collected and the controls applied for review and inspection and possible copies to bring back for in-office review. If the information is being stored on computer, please provide access to the computer database storing the information and guidance on how to retrieve the information.
9. The NRC team may need to know the availability of contractor staff that performed significant ESP related activities for possible teleconferences.

10. Copies of quality assurance audits and self-assessments associated with ESP related activities.
11. Listing of corrective action program condition and/or deviation reports associated with the ESP related activities and corrective action program procedures. Copies of the corrective action program condition/deviation reports should also be available.
12. Copies of completed test/data collection procedures for site characterization testing/studies.