

October 12, 2006

Elaine Snyder-Conn, Acting Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Daphne Ecological Services Field Office
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR THE VOGTLE ESP SITE

Dear Ms. Conn:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Southern) for an early site permit (ESP) for the potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants. As part of the review of this application the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). The impact analysis in the EIS includes the potential impacts of the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear power plants at the applicant's preferred or at one of three alternate sites, including the potential impacts to fish and wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

The applicant's preferred location for the new unit(s), if built, would be adjacent to the existing Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) site, which is located on a Coastal Plain bluff on the southwest side of the Savannah River in eastern Burke County, Georgia. The three alternate sites that will be evaluated in the EIS at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Appling and Toombs Counties, Georgia, the Barton Site, in Chilton and Elmore Counties, Alabama and Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, in Houston County, Alabama located within the area serviced by your office.

Southern submitted the application for an ESP on August 15, 2006, pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 52. The applicant supplemented the application by letters dated August 17, 2006, September 6, 2006 (two letters), and September 13, 2006. The application was accepted for docketing on September 19, 2006. If approved, the ESP will document the NRC staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear plants. The ESP would not authorize the applicant to begin construction of the new unit(s). However, in its review the NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives, including the above alternative sites. The application is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The application is listed under accession number ML062290248.

To support the EIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the NRC requests a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species, and designated and proposed critical habitat, that may be in the vicinity of the three alternate sites. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

If you have any questions concerning the VEGP ESP application or other aspects of this project, please contact Mark Notich at 301-415-3053 or Cristina Guerrero at 301-415-2981. You may also e-mail us at mdn@nrc.gov or cxg3@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher Nolan, Branch Chief
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 737

cc: See next page

To support the EIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the NRC requests a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species, and designated and proposed critical habitat, that may be in the vicinity of the three alternate sites. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

If you have any questions concerning the ESP application or other aspects of this project, please contact Mark Notich at 301-415-3053 or Cristina Guerrero at 301-415-2981. You may also e-mail us at mdn@nrc.gov or cxg3@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher Nolan, Branch Chief
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 737

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

Public	D. Matthews/B. Beckner (RidsNrrDNRS)	M. Notich
C. Nolan	C. Araguas	J. Wilson
C. Guerrero	T. Kenyon	J. Davis
K. Clark, RII	G. McCoy, SRI	B. Anderson, RI
M. Sackschewsky (PNNL)	K. Leigh (PNNL)	OPA
OCA	NEPB	

C:\FileNet\ML062850048.wpd
Accession No.: **ML062850048**

OFFICE	LA:DNRL:NEPB	GS:DNRL:NEPB	PM:DNRL:NAPB	PM:DNRL:NEPB	OGC	BC:DNRL:NEPB
NAME	M. Viera	C. Guerrero	C. Araguas	M. Notich	RWeisman	C. Nolan
DATE	09/11/06	09/19/06	09/20/06	09/19/06	10/05/06	10/12/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

Mr. Jeffrey T. Gasser
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Louis B. Long
Vice President Technical Support
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Charles R. Pierce
ESP Project Manager
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Thomas O. McCallum
ESP Project Manager
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Steven M. Jackson
Senior Engineer - Power Supply
Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia
1470 Riveredge Parkway, NW
Atlanta, GA 30328-4684

Mr. Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mr. Adrian Heymer
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Attorney General
Law Department
132 Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mr. Laurence Bergen
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
P.O. Box 1349
Tucker, GA 30085-1349

Arthur H. Dombey, Esquire
Troutman Sanders
Nations Bank Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 5200
Atlanta, GA 30308-2216

Resident Inspector
Vogtle Plant
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Paul Gunter
Director of the Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Russell Bell
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. James Riccio
Greenpeace
702 H Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Jay M. Gutierrez
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

Ms. Vanessa E. Quinn, Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Branch
Nuclear and Chemical Preparedness and
Protection Division
Department of Homeland Security
1800 South Bell Street, Room 837
Crystal City-Arlington, VA 22202-3546

Mr. Paul Leventhal
Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mr. Marvin Fertel
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Jim Davis
ESP Project Engineer
Southern Nuclear Company
Post Office Box 1295, BIN B056
Birmingham AL 35201

O.C. Harper IV
Vice President - Resources Planning and
Nuclear Development
Georgia Power Company
241 Ralph McGill Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30308

Bentina C. Terry
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Bin B-022
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Director, Consumers' Utility
Counsel Division
Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs
2 M.L. King, Jr. Drive
Plaza Level East; Suite 356
Atlanta, GA 30334-4600

Resident Manger
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Mr. Thomas P. Miller
U.S. Department of Energy
Headquarters - Germantown
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Mr. Joseph (Buzz) Miller
Senior Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. M. Stanford Blanton, Esquire
Balch and Bingham, LLP
P.O. Box 306
Birmingham, AL 35201

Elaine Snyder-Conn, Acting Field
Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Daphne Ecological Services Field Office
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

Email:
TOMCCALL@southernco.com
CRPIERCE@southernco.com
erg-xl@cox.net
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com
bob.brown@ge.com
mark.beaumont@wsms.com
sfrantz@morganlewis.com
ksutton@morganlewis.com
jgutierrez@morganlewis.com
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov or
tom.miller@ nuclear.energy.gov

steven.hucik@ge.com
david.hinds@ge.com
James1.Beard@ge.com
chris.maslak@ge.com
jim@ncwarn.org
pshastings@duke-energy.com
ronald.hagen@eia.doe.gov