



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

December 27, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Victor M. McCree, Deputy Regional Administrator

FROM: Scott M. Shaeffer, Chief **/RA/**  
Reactor Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

SUBJECT: REPORT ON TRIP TO VOGTLE

DATE OF VISIT: December 20 - 21, 2006

PURPOSE OF VISIT: 4th Quarter Branch Chief Visit

INSPECTORS OBSERVED: Gerry McCoy, Vogtle SRI  
Brian Anderson, Vogtle RI

SENIOR LICENSEE PERSON CONTACTED: Tom Tynan, Vogtle General Manager

OBSERVATIONS NOTED WITH PLANT:

The plant tour incorporated the control room, security upgrades, AFW and service water enclosures, main steam valve vaults, emergency diesel generators and other areas. No significant material condition issues were noted. One personnel safety issue was observed involving a near miss collision of a motorized utility cart and a pedestrian in between the control and turbine buildings. I shared this observation with the resident staff and plant management for information purposes.

OTHER COMMENTS:

I met with Tom Tynan and discussed current operational issues and the proposed Unit 2 outage scope which is to begin March 4. He expressed that his engineering staff was preparing for the pressurizer line weld overlays and that it represented a significant challenge which may take the lead for completion of the outage schedule. Vogtle's pressurizer line design creates unique access issues to incorporate all the relevant piping. This will be a challenge for them during this and future outages requiring re-examination. Unit 2 will also receive the same sump modification implemented on Unit 1 last Fall. The downstream effect and orifice installations remain to be completed. NRC Headquarters personnel have again proposed a potential ECCS sump audit. The date for this audit is being discussed with the licensee in corporate.

With regard to operating issues, we discussed the axial offset questions which were the subject of recent conference calls with the licensee. I reiterated that we were currently satisfied with their use of RIS 2005-20 for evaluating the operability question; however, this was the second example where they were surprised at the core performance and had to re-evaluate the effect on the COLR. We are drafting a TIA to HQ to answer several remaining questions and better understand the generic implications of Westinghouse's distribution of unapproved axial offset validity criteria. It is my understanding that NRR is actively discussing this issue with Westinghouse.

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DATE	12/27/2006										
E-MAIL COPY?	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

V. McCree

2

We also discussed the need for two supplemental inspections in the future. The first for a White PI in the area of cooling water and the second for the White finding in the area of EP. We plan on completing a 95001 for the cooling water issues this Spring. I informed Tom that I would not look to schedule the followup for the White EP finding prior to being informed by the site that they have exhausted any further appeals of the finding. Based on their denial of the violation and finding, they have not fully defined all corrective actions for the issue.

Tom also informed me that they intend on coming to the Region soon for a management briefing on plant status similar to the recent Farley meeting.

I received only positive feedback on the RI communication and interface.

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425  
License Nos. NPF-68, NPF-81

cc: (See page 2)

cc: Regional Administrator  
Director, DRP (e-mail)  
Director, DRS (e-mail)  
Deputy Director, DRP (e-mail)  
R. Martin, NRR Senior Project Manager (e-mail)  
G. McCoy, Vogtle Senior Resident Inspector, (e-mail)  
Division Secretary