



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

May 3, 2007

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. T. E. Tynan, Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT - NRC EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION REPORT 05000424/2007501 AND
05000425/2007501

Dear Mr. Tynan:

On March 19-23, 2007, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted an inspection at your Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The enclosed inspection report documents the inspection findings, which were discussed on March 23, 2007 with Mr. R. Dedrickson and other members of your staff, and on May 1, 2007 via teleconference with you and other members of your staff.

The inspection examined activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspector reviewed selected procedures and records, observed activities, and interviewed personnel.

Based on the results of this inspection, no findings of significance were identified. However, a licensee-identified violation which was determined to be of very low safety significance is listed in this report. NRC is treating this violation as a non-cited violation (NCV) consistent with Section VI.A.1 of the NRC Enforcement Policy because of the very low safety significance of the violation and because it is entered into your corrective action program. If you contest this non-cited violation, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN.: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001; with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region II; the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

SNC

2

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian R. Bonser, Chief
Plant Support Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 05000424/2007501 and 05000425/2007501
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information

cc w/encl:
J. T. Gasser
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

L. M. Stinson, Vice President, Fleet Operations Support
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

N. J. Stringfellow
Manager-Licensing
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

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

Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, GA 30830

(cc w/encl cont'd - See page 3)

SNC

3

(cc w/encl cont'd)

Director, Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, SE, Suite 1252
Atlanta, GA 30334

Manager, Radioactive Materials Program
Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Attorney General
Law Department
132 Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Laurence Bergen
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

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

Arthur H. Domby, Esq.
Troutman Sanders
Electronic Mail Distribution

Senior Engineer - Power Supply
Municipal Electric Authority
of Georgia
Electronic Mail Distribution

Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Distribution w/encl:

B. Singal, NRR
RIDSNNRRDIRS
PUBLIC

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian R. Bonser, Chief
Plant Support Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 05000424/2007501 and 05000425/2007501
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information

cc w/encl:
J. T. Gasser
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

L. M. Stinson, Vice President, Fleet Operations Support
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

N. J. Stringfellow
Manager-Licensing
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

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

Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, GA 30830

(cc w/encl cont'd - See page 3)

☒ PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

☐ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

☐ SENSITIVE

☒ NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: X ☐ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRP	RII:DRS				
SIGNATURE	RA	RA	RA				
NAME	KREH	SHAEFFER	BONSER				
DATE	5/2/2007	5/2/2007	5/3/2007	5/ /2007	5/ /2007	5/ /2007	5/ /2007
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\FileNet\ML071230439.wpd

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Enclosure

REGION II

Docket Nos: 50-424, 50-425

License Nos: NPF-68, NPF-81

Report Nos: 05000424/2007501, 05000425/2007501

Licensee: Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.

Facility: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2

Location: Waynesboro, GA 30830

Dates: March 19-23, 2007

Inspector: James L. Kreh, Emergency Preparedness Inspector

Approved by: Brian R. Bonser, Chief
Plant Support Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000424/2007-501, 05000425/2007-501; 03/19-23/2007; Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2; Routine Inspection Report

This report covers an announced inspection conducted by a Region II emergency preparedness inspector. The NRC's program for overseeing the safe operation of commercial nuclear power reactors is described in NUREG-1649, "Reactor Oversight Process," Revision 4, dated December 2006.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations.

A violation of very low safety significance, which was identified by the licensee, has been reviewed by the inspector. Corrective actions taken or planned by the licensee have been entered into the licensee's corrective action program. This violation and associated corrective actions are listed in Section 4OA7 of this report.

REPORT DETAILS

1. REACTOR SAFETY

Cornerstone: Emergency Preparedness

1EP2 Alert and Notification System (ANS) Evaluation

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector evaluated the adequacy of licensee methods for testing the alert and notification system in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 71114, Attachment 02, "Alert and Notification System Evaluation". The applicable planning standard 10 CFR 50.47(b)(5) and related requirements contained in Section IV.D of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 were used as reference criteria. The evaluation criteria contained in NUREG-0654, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants," Revision 1; and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Report REP-10, "Guide for the Evaluation of Alert and Notification Systems for Nuclear Power Plants" were also applied. This inspection activity represents one sample on a biennial cycle.

The inspector reviewed various documents which are listed in the Attachment to this report.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

1EP3 Emergency Response Organization (ERO) Staffing and Augmentation System

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the ERO augmentation staffing requirements and the process for notifying ERO personnel to ensure the readiness of key staff for responding to an event and the capability for timely facility activation. The results of the monthly and quarterly ERO pager system tests were reviewed. The inspector examined the provisions for a backup notification system. A sample of problems identified from augmentation drills and ERO pager system tests was reviewed to assess the effectiveness of corrective actions.

The inspection was conducted in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 71114, Attachment 03, "Emergency Response Organization Staffing and Augmentation System". The applicable planning standard 10 CFR 50.47(b)(2) and related requirements contained in Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 were used as reference criteria. This inspection activity represents one sample on a biennial cycle.

The inspector reviewed various documents which are listed in the Attachment to this report.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

1EP4 Emergency Action Level (EAL) and Emergency Plan Changes

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the Emergency Plan changes made in Revisions 43 and 44 (the latter was the version in effect at the time of the inspection), and selected revisions to Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures made during the previous 12 months.

The inspection was conducted in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 71114, Attachment 04, "Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes". The applicable planning standard 10 CFR 50.47(b)(4) and related requirements contained in 10 CFR 50.54(q) and Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 were used as reference criteria. This inspection activity represents one sample on an annual cycle.

The inspector reviewed various documents which are listed in the Attachment to this report.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

1EP5 Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the corrective actions identified through the emergency preparedness (EP) program to ascertain the significance of the issues and to determine whether repetitive problems were occurring. The facility's self-assessments and audits were reviewed to evaluate the licensee's ability to be self-critical, thus avoiding complacency and degradation of its EP program, and to assess the completeness and effectiveness of a sample of EP-related corrective actions. One emergency declaration (a Notification of Unusual Event [NOUE]) was made since the last inspection of this program area in September 2005. The inspector reviewed the corrective action reports associated with the NOUE declaration.

The inspection was conducted in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 71114, Attachment 05, "Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses". The applicable planning standard 10 CFR 50.47(b)(14) and related requirements contained in Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 were used as reference criteria. This inspection activity represents one sample on a biennial cycle.

The inspector reviewed various documents which are listed in the Attachment to this report.

b. Findings

A licensee-identified violation is discussed in Section 4OA7.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA1 Performance Indicator (PI) Verification

a. Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the licensee's process for developing the data for the three EP PIs, and examined data reported to the NRC for the four-quarter period January 1 - December 31, 2006. To verify the accuracy of the PI data reported during that period, PI definitions and guidance contained in NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline," Revisions 3 and 4, were used to verify the basis in reporting for each data element.

- Drill and Exercise Performance (DEP)
- ERO Drill Participation
- ANS Reliability

The inspector verified the accuracy of the PI for ERO DEP through review of a sample of drill and training records. The inspector reviewed selected training records to verify the accuracy of the PI for ERO drill participation for personnel assigned to key positions in the ERO. The inspector verified the accuracy of the PI for ANS reliability through review of a sample of the licensee's records of periodic system tests.

The inspection was conducted in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 71151, "Performance Indicator Verification." This inspection activity represents three samples on an annual cycle.

The inspector reviewed various documents which are listed in the Attachment to this report.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

4OA6 Meetings, including Exit

On March 23, 2007, the inspector presented the inspection results to Mr. R. Dedrickson, Plant Manager, and other members of his staff. The inspector confirmed that proprietary information was not provided during the inspection.

On May 1, 2007, a re-exit meeting by teleconference was held with Mr. T. Tynan, Site Vice President, and other members of his staff to present the NRC's conclusion that the incorrect NOUE declaration on March 9, 2007 was being dispositioned as an NRC-identified non-cited violation (NCV). Additional NRC review determined that the

categorization of the finding should be modified to a licensee-identified NCV, and this decision was communicated telephonically to Mr. W. Copeland on May 3, 2007.

4OA7 Licensee-Identified Violations

The following violation of very low safety significance (Green) was identified by the licensee, and is a violation of NRC requirements which meets the criteria of Section VI of the NRC Enforcement Policy, NUREG-1600, for being dispositioned as an NCV.

- 10 CFR 50.54(q) requires the licensee to follow and maintain its Emergency Plan. Contrary to this, on March 9, 2007, the licensee declared a Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) in response to a letdown-charging mismatch in the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) that was incorrectly determined to have been caused by unidentified RCS leakage greater than 10 gallons per minute. An emergency classification was not warranted for this condition because no EAL in the Emergency Plan was exceeded. This event is documented in the licensee's corrective action program as Condition Reports 2007102804 and 2007103869. This finding is of very low safety significance because it involved an actual event implementation problem related to the declaration of a NOUE, which is the lowest emergency classification level in the licensee's EAL scheme.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

R. Brown, Training and Emergency Preparedness Manager
J. Churchwell, Senior Engineer
P. Conley, Programs Supervisor
W. Copeland, Performance Analysis Supervisor
R. Dedrickson, Plant Manager
L. Mansfield, Nuclear Operations Training Supervisor
L. Mayo, Site Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
M. Sharma, Nuclear Specialist
T. Tynan, Site Vice President
J. Williams, Assistant General Manager, Plant Support

NRC Personnel

G. McCoy, Senior Resident Inspector
B. Anderson, Resident Inspector

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

None

Discussed

None

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Section 1EP2: Alert and Notification System Evaluation

Plans and Procedures

Procedure 25722-C, Emergency Alert Siren Performance Test, Rev. 13
Procedure 91204-C, Emergency Response Communications, Rev. 31

Records and Data

Documentation of weekly silent siren tests, 10/01/2005 - 02/28/2007
Documentation of annual full-volume siren test conducted 03/22/2006
Records of quarterly and annual siren maintenance conducted in accordance with
Procedure 25722-C, 10/01/2005 - 02/28/2007

Section 1EP3: ERO Staffing and Augmentation System

Plans and Procedures

Emergency Plan, Table B-1
Procedure 91204-C, Emergency Response Communications, Rev. 31
Procedure 91602-C, Emergency Drills and Exercises, Rev. 17

Records and Data

Emergency Recall System (ERS) monthly and quarterly tests conducted in accordance with
Procedure 91204-C, Data Sheet 3, for the period 10/01/2005 - 12/31/2006
ERS quarterly tests conducted in accordance with Procedure 91204-C, Data Sheet 5, for the
period 10/01/2005 - 12/31/2006

Section 1EP4: Emergency Action Level (EAL) and Emergency Plan Changes

Vogtle Emergency Plan, Rev. 43 and associated 10 CFR 50.54(q) evaluation (in Licensing
Document Change Request No. 2006018)
Vogtle Emergency Plan, Rev. 44 and associated 10 CFR 50.54(q) evaluation (in Licensing
Document Change Request No. 2006048)
Changes and associated 10 CFR 50.54(q) evaluations for revisions to the following Emergency
Plan Implementing Procedures: 91001-C, Revs. 23-25; 91002-C, Revs. 45-48; 91101-C,
Rev. 23; 91102-C, Rev. 25; 91106-C, Rev. 15; 91108-C, Rev. 10; 91204-C, Rev. 31;
91302-C, Rev. 13; 91503-C, Rev. 12

Section 1EP5: Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses

Plans and Procedures

NMP-GM-002, Corrective Action Program, Version 5.0
Procedure 91602-C, Emergency Drills and Exercises, Rev. 17

Audits and Self-Assessments

Quality Assurance (QA) Audit of Emergency Planning, V-EP-2006, 04/24/2006
 QA Audit of Emergency Planning, V-EP-2007, 02/27/2007
 QA Audit of Offsite Emergency Preparedness Support, C-EP-2006, 03/20/2006
 QA Audit of Offsite Emergency Preparedness Support, C-EP-2007, 03/20/2007
 Southern Nuclear Operating Company Fleet Emergency Preparedness Team Self-Assessment,
 CR 2007100162 (CS), 01/29/2007 - 02/02/2007

Condition Reports (CRs) and Action Items (AIs)

CR 2006101868, Siren B31 failed weekly silent test
 CR 2006104070, No procedural guidance to dispatch personnel from the Technical Support Center (drill critique item)
 CR 2006104521, Higher than normal failure rates noted in Training Segments 20061 and 20062 regarding emergency classification and notification tasks
 CR 2006108354, Implementation of Post-Accident Sampling System removal
 CR 2006109475, Site Area Emergency classification during 08/02/2006 drill was not timely
 CR 2006112371, Problems with sirens B1 and B46 during weekly test
 CR 2006112455, DEP PI is outside administrative action level threshold
 CR 2006200947, Questions regarding "declaration time" vs. "approval time" for offsite emergency notifications
 CR 2007102804, 03/09/2007 NOUE declaration and associated operational events
 CR 2007102806, Problems with activation of ERS during 03/09/2007 NOUE declaration
 CR 2007103869, Emergency Preparedness Evaluation of 03/09/2007 NOUE declaration
 AI 2007201222, Schedule and conduct an after-hours activation of the ERS to test pager coverage and ERO response

Section 40A1: Performance Indicator (PI) Verification

Procedures, Records, and Data

Documentation package (scenario/time line/event notification forms/critique report) for ERO drill on 08/02/2006
 Documentation (Control Room log, preliminary event time line) for NOUE declaration on 03/09/2006
 Documentation of DEP opportunities from Licensed Operator simulator evaluations on various dates in 03/2006
 Documentation of offsite siren weekly silent tests, 01/01/2006 - 12/31/2006
 Records of drill and exercise participation by selected ERO personnel, 2005-2006

ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS

ANS	Alert and Notification System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CR	Condition Report
DEP	Drill and exercise performance
EP	Emergency Preparedness
EAL	Emergency Action Level
ERO	Emergency Response Organization
ERS	Emergency Recall System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
NCV	Non-Cited Violation
NEI	Nuclear Energy Institute
NOUE	Notification of Unusual Event
PI	Performance Indicator
QA	Quality Assurance
RCS	Reactor Coolant System
URI	Unresolved Item