

September 20, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: William F. Burton, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch A
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Mark D. Notich, Project Manager /RA/
Environmental Projects Branch A
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY - JULY 9, 2007; DISCUSSION WITH
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY (SNC) CONCERNING
INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION RESPONSES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
FOR THE PLANT VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT IN THE AREAS OF
GROUNDWATER AND HYDROGEOLOGY

ATTENDEES: NRC - Mark D. Notich, Richard Raione
Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Tom Moorer, Dale Fulton

The NRC staff held a conference call with Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) on Monday, July 9, 2007, to discuss inconsistencies between SNC's responses to requests for additional information (RAIs) and Revision 2 of the environmental report (ER) for the Plant Vogtle Early Site Permit (ESP) site in the areas of groundwater and hydrogeology. The NRC staff's identification of inconsistencies and SNC's responses are detailed below.

NRC Staff: Based on analysis of the available geohydrology data for the Vogtle site vicinity, the staff has concluded that there is no physical or hydrologic barrier to communication between the two states in the Cretaceous aquifer. Add the SRS -D-Area wells to Figure 2.3.2-6, and provide information about South Carolina groundwater users. This information should include data such as withdrawal rates and screened intervals.

SNC Response: SNC will revise Figure 2.3.2-6 in Rev 3 of the ER to include the location of the SRS D-Area wells.

NRC Staff: In Rev 2 of the ER, in Section 2.3.2.2.2 SNC state that "The proposed locations of the new (production) wells are shown in Figure 2.3.2-9." However, they are not shown in the figure. They are shown in SSAR

CONTACT: Mark D. Notich, NRO/DSER/RAP1
(301) 415-3053

Figure 2.4.12-27 (ESP SSAR Rev.2). Additionally, SNC states in Rev 2 of the ER in Section 5.2.2.2 that “SNC has not determined the locations of the Units 3 and 4 wells, as a result the environmental report used the existing unit’s MU2A well for all drawdown analyses due to its close proximity to the VEGP property boundary (5700 feet), and because it is one of the site’s primary production wells.” All calculated aquifer drawdown values are for the 5700 ft. distance from well to boundary; however, a proposed production well is ~3500 ft from the boundary. Accordingly, the drawdown estimates at the Plant Vogtle boundary are not conservatively estimated in Rev. 2.

Provide the coordinates of the proposed new groundwater wells and repeat the groundwater drawdown calculations, using the nearest of these new well locations, to assess the impacts to groundwater at the site boundary and to other groundwater users in the region. The SRS D-Area wells should be included in this assessment.

SNC Response: SNC will revise Figure 2.3.2-9 in Rev 3 of the ER to include the location of the SRS D-Area wells. SNC will also repeat the groundwater drawdown calculations using the new locations for the production wells and the SRS D-Area wells.

NRC Staff: Provide additional data to support SNC’s belief that dewatering during construction will not disrupt the flow into and through Mallard Pond. Alternatively, provide a statement describing how the pond level and/or outflow will be monitored during construction dewatering and what actions will be taken if outflow from the pond ceases during the construction dewatering period.

SNC Response: SNC will revise Rev 3 of the ER to state that the water level in Mallard Pond will be monitored and that mitigative actions will be initiated if the level falls to a pre-determined point.

Docket No. 52-011

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NAME	MNotich	ARedden	WBurton <i>MDN for</i>
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