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November 8, 2007

Docket No.: 52-011

AR-07-2131

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Vogtle Early Site Permit Application
New and Significant Information Review

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On August 14, 2006, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted an Early Site Permit (ESP) application for two additional units at the existing Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 site. Recently, NRC published the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Vogtle ESP and the staff is scheduled to publish the final EIS (FEIS) in mid 2008. As you are aware, SNC plans to submit a Combined License (COL) application prior to receipt of the ESP for Vogtle with a target COL submittal date of March 1, 2008.

Since the COL application submittal will occur prior to receipt of the ESP and actually prior to receipt of the FEIS, SNC contacted NRC by telephone to discuss how to best update the DEIS for design changes since the last revision of the Environmental Report (e.g. changes to Westinghouse AP1000 standard design) and manage the new and significant information review required for the COL application. Based on review of the regulations and guidance governing the ESP and COL process and extensive discussions with the NRC staff, SNC developed a proposed plan of action to fulfill the new and significant information requirement established in 10 CFR 51.50(c)(1). This proposed plan was discussed with the NRC staff during the referenced teleconference and is briefly described below.

SNC will conduct an extensive review of the DEIS during the open comment period and identify any necessary changes and corrections to the document. In addition, SNC will conduct a review of the DEIS for potential new and significant information for the COLA application. Prior to the end of the DEIS comment period, SNC will provide by letter to the NRC any changes or comments on the DEIS.

This information will then be evaluated under the new and significant criteria and be included in the Vogtle COL application, as appropriate. This will allow the NRC to address and disposition the FEIS against any new and significant information for Vogtle when issued.

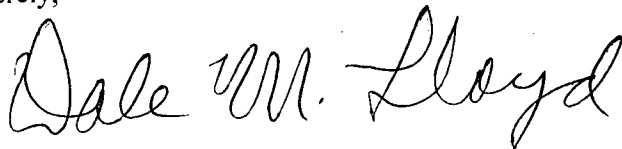
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The process for review is governed by SNC internal procedure ND-ARL-012. This procedure and the results documentation of this review process will be available for audit by NRC. The SNC procedure is based on both the information provided in the new Part 52 Final Rule (see 72 FR @ pp. 49352 – 49566, August 28, 2007) and information obtained from interaction with the NRC environmental staff and industry peers. The procedure provides a systematic process to identify changes for the DEIS and for changes that are significant. Any material changes or “new” information affecting the DEIS of the ESP will be identified to the NRC staff as part of this process during the comment phase for the COLA review. The procedure applies the definitions of “new” and “significant” from the rule and sets out a process that defines a Qualified Investigative team, consisting of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and led by the SNC Environmental Project Manager (EPM). The SMEs conduct a review of the DEIS and other supporting new material. In addition to the DEIS and supporting information, the SMEs will review other documentation such as the Westinghouse DCD, relevant topical reports (TRs), monitoring results, other existing plant documentation, and existing scientific literature. They will also contact industry peers, Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental agencies, and academicians familiar with the local environment. The information obtained from these reviews and discussions will be documented on a form contained in the procedure along with the basis for any determinations. Upon completion of the review, the EPM will convene a meeting of the SMEs to review the information identified as “new” and determine if the information is “significant”. The basis for this determination will be documented and any information identified as both new and significant will be furnished to NRC in the COLA. All documentation from this process will be retained for future review by NRC.

This SNC process provides for a robust review of relevant information for potential new and significant information and identifies a mechanism to furnish this information to the NRC in a manner consistent with the requirements of the part 52 Final Rule.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact T.C. Moorer, SNC Environmental Project Manager at (205) 992-5807.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale M. Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "L".

Dale M. Lloyd
Vogtle Deployment Director

DML/TCM/dmw

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

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Mr. J. A. Miller, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Development
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MR. T.C. Moorer, Environmental Project Manager
Document Services RTYPE: AR01
File AR.01.01.06

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