

April 9, 2008

Mr. David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2,
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating licenses for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (VEGP), which is located in Burke County, Georgia. VEGP is operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC). As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff prepared a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues pertaining to extended operation and refurbishment activities associated with license renewal. In accordance with the Fisheries and Wildlife Coordination Act, a copy of the draft supplement is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft supplement and on our preliminary conclusions.

NRC staff determined that the area of potential effect for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the draft supplemental environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that the impact of license renewal on examined resources is small.

By letter dated August 22, 2007, the NRC requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provide a list of Federally endangered or threatened species that may be in the vicinity of VEGP and its associated transmission lines. The NMFS mailed the NRC a letter dated September 11, 2007, which identified the shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) as the only Federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species which is known to occur in the project area.

The Biological Assessment prepared by NRC staff (Appendix E of the enclosed SEIS) provides an evaluation of the potential impact of renewing the VEGP operating licenses for an additional 20 years of operation on the species. The NRC has determined that the proposed action would not likely adversely affect the shortnose sturgeon population of the Savannah River.

We are requesting your concurrence with our determination. In reaching our conclusion, the NRC staff relied on information provided by the applicant, on literature research, and information from the NMFS.

D. Bernhart

-2-

Additionally, please note that the period for public comment on the draft SEIS expires on July 16, 2008. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Mr. J.P. Leous, at 301-415-2864 or by e-mail at Justin.Leous@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA Donnie Ashley for/

Louise Lund, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425

Enclosures:
As stated

D. Bernhart

-2-

Additionally, please note that the period for public comment on the draft SEIS expires on July 16, 2008. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Mr. J.P. Leous, at 301-415-2864 or by e-mail at Justin.Leous@nrc.gov.

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Louise Lund, Branch Chief
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425

Enclosures:
As stated

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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Vogtle Electric Generating Plant,
Units 1 and 2

- 2 -

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