

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Docket Number: 52-011-ESP; ASLBP 07-850-01-ESP-BD-01

Location: (Telephone Conference)

DOCKETED
USNRC

March 26, 2008 (5:35pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Work Order No.: NRC-2095

Pages 268-308

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL

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PRE-HEARING TELECONFERENCE

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR :
OPERATING CO. : Docket No. 52-011-ESP
 : ASLBP No. 07-850-01-
(Early Site Permit for : ESP-BD01
Vogtle ESP Site) :

Wednesday,
March 19, 2008

The above-entitled matter came on for
pre-hearing teleconference, pursuant to notice, at
2:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

G. PAUL BOLLWERK, III Administrative Judge
NICHOLAS G. TRIKOUROS Administrative Judge
DR. JAMES F. JACKSON Administrative Judge

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 On Behalf of ASLBP:

3 PATRICK A. MOULDING, ESQ.

4 of: Office of the General Counsel

5 Mail Stop - O-15 D21

6 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

7 Washington, D.C. 20555-001*

8

9 On Behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Co.:

10 M. STANFORD BLANTON, ESQ.

11 of: Balch & Bingham LLP

12 1710 Sixth Avenue North

13 Birmingham, Alabama 35203-2015

14 (205) 251-8100

15 FAX (205) 226-8798

16

17 KATHRYN M. SUTTON, ESQ.

18 of: Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

19 1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

20 Washington, D.C. 20004-2541

21 (202) 739-3000

22 FAX (202) 739-3001

23

24

25

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1 On Behalf of Joint Intervenors:

2 LAWRENCE D. SANDERS, ESQ.

3 of: Turner Environmental Law Clinic

4 Emory University School of Law

5 1301 Clifton Road

6 Atlanta, Georgia 30322

7 (404) 727-5542

8 FAX (404) 727-7851

9

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 CHARLES PIERCE, Vogtle Deployment Licensing
12 Manager

13 MARK NOTICH, NRC, Office of New Reactors

14 STEPHANIE COFFIN, NRC, Office of New Reactors

15 MEG PARISH, ASLBP Staff

16 EMILY KRAUSE, ASLBP Staff

17 ELIZABETH BREREKIN*, Law Student

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(2:05 p.m.)

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JUDGE BOLLWERK: This is Judge Bollwerk. We're here today to have a telephone conference to talk briefly at least about possible arrangements for having a -- from limited appearance statements as well as a site visit for the end of April 2008, down in the vicinity of the Vogtle site.

With me here in Rockville today is Judge Trikouros. Judge Jackson is joining us by telephone from Utah. Also with me here are Emily Krause and Meg Parish, two of our law clerks.

Let's go ahead and have everyone identify themselves for the record, if we could. Let's start with the Applicant, Southern.

MR. BLANTON: Your Honor, this is Stan Blanton. I'm counsel for Southern.

MS. SUTTON: Kathryn Sutton, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, co-counsel.

MR. PIERCE: And I am Charles Pierce, Chuck Pierce, Vogtle Department Licensing Manager for Southern Nuclear.

JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Thank you very much. The NRC staff, then, please?

MR. MOULDING: This is Patrick Moulding

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1 with the Office of the General Counsel for the NRC
2 staff. Listening in with me are Stephanie Coffin with
3 the Office of New Reactors, and Mark Notich, also with
4 the Office of New Reactors.

5 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Thank you.
6 And then, for the Joint Intervenors, please.

7 MR. SANDERS: This is Larry Sanders, and
8 with me listening in I have Elizabeth Brerekin.

9 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Thank you
10 very much.

11 Briefly, I think we have sent you a notice
12 sort of indicating what our general intentions were,
13 and appreciate you making yourselves available for the
14 telephone conference on somewhat short notice.
15 Although we still are about six weeks out, it's
16 important to get this going, assuming we are going to
17 be able to do what we'd like to do.

18 Just briefly, in terms of the limited
19 appearances, what the Board currently contemplates is
20 two sessions, one on Sunday, April 27, 2008, from 4:00
21 to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, a second one on Monday
22 evening, the 28th of April, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.,
23 and they would both be held in the Convention Center
24 at the Doubletree Hotel in Augusta, Georgia. We have
25 arranged for some conference room space there that

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1 should be -- should fulfill our needs. That's on the
2 2651 Perimeter Parkway in Augusta.

3 And I should mention that I will be,
4 assuming -- once we have finalized the details, we
5 will be putting out a notice for the Federal Register,
6 as well as information on our website and press
7 releases that relate to this. But this is what we are
8 currently contemplating.

9 These are limited appearance statements,
10 and for those that may have less familiarity with it,
11 it is basically an opportunity for members of the
12 public to come and express their views about the
13 Vogtle ESP proceeding, either with respect to the --
14 in this case with respect to the contested issues that
15 are in the case, if they wish, or consist of a
16 mandatory hearing with respect to anything else
17 relating to the ESP.

18 So it's a somewhat broader opportunity in
19 this instance, since we have both a contested
20 proceeding and the mandatory or uncontested
21 proceeding.

22 The parties to the proceeding, which would
23 be Southern, the NRC staff, and the Joint Intervenors,
24 are certainly invited to attend. We would have space
25 there for you to sit at a table. We afford you an

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1 opportunity to introduce yourselves at the beginning
2 of the session, although, again, these are generally
3 for members of the public, rather than the parties, to
4 have anything to say. So you should understand it is
5 with that general caveat.

6 So, again, one of the things I guess we
7 will want to know at some point is if you do plan on
8 attending, so we make sure we have a table there for
9 you and a microphone on the table, so that you will be
10 able to speak if need be.

11 These are fairly standard with NRC
12 practice, and if you went back and looked in any of
13 the dockets of our proceedings you would see different
14 notices that are used, although they are very similar.
15 But the basic idea will be that we will be asking
16 members of the public to pre-register with the Panel
17 Chairman, via either e-mail or fax or mail, and let us
18 know if they are interested in coming and speaking.

19 We will have statements up to five
20 minutes, although we will, depending on the number of
21 registrations we get, and what it looks like and the
22 time, we may have to cut that time back somewhat, to
23 make sure that everyone -- we want to make sure
24 everyone gets an opportunity to say something. That's
25 always something that is important, but we will deal

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1 with that at the time.

2 But, generally, up to five minutes we will
3 allow someone to speak. We're going to ask folks, if
4 they can, to try to let us know by April 18th, which
5 is about a week before the session, whether they want
6 to -- they are interested in speaking.

7 That will give us some idea of the number
8 of folks we have, and also I would be surprised if
9 that happened, but if we find that there aren't any --
10 there aren't folks who are interested in Sunday or
11 Monday evening, we then could cancel the session if
12 need be, because it wouldn't behoove either us or you
13 all to be sitting there and not have anyone -- anybody
14 show up. I doubt that will happen, but we do sort of
15 reserve that right.

16 And we will also accept sign-ups at the --
17 that evening, assuming we have enough time to
18 accommodate everyone, although we generally prefer
19 people preregister. That's the general parameters.
20 And we will put out a press release that describes a
21 lot of this, as well as the notices that are in --
22 will go in the Federal Register as well as in the
23 docket of the proceeding and on the agency's website.

24 Let me stop there and see if there is any
25 questions anyone has.

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1 MR. BLANTON: This is Stan Blanton for the
2 Applicant. None from us, Your Honor.

3 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

4 MR. MOULDING: Nothing for the staff, Your
5 Honor. This is Patrick Moulding.

6 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

7 MR. SANDERS: Same for the Intervenors.
8 You made it very clear as to what is going on.

9 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. And, again, if
10 some questions do come up at some point, well, we're
11 obviously glad to hear from you, and we will try to
12 answer them the best we can.

13 In terms of the site visit, what we had
14 thought is that -- one of the reasons we actually
15 wanted to start this process -- and we all -- we
16 generally do limited appearances as part of a
17 proceeding, and also in this instance have a site
18 visit, is because there is going to be -- there has
19 been some delay in the -- finalizing the SER and the
20 FEIS.

21 Things tend to get very busy at the end,
22 and we felt this was a good opportunity to sort of get
23 some feedback from the public in terms of the
24 proceeding, as well as have the site visit,
25 particularly for the technical members to get a chance

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1 to look at the site and some of the things they're
2 interested in seeing.

3 I should also mention, with limited
4 appearances, we very likely would do another
5 additional session at the time that we do the
6 evidentiary hearing or the mandatory hearing on the
7 uncontested issues.

8 That would be something in the future, so
9 these may not be the only sessions we do, but we do
10 like to get the feedback from the public,
11 particularly, frankly, we've heard with respect to the
12 mandatory hearing from some of the other boards that
13 have done these that many of the public comments they
14 got actually thought the Board -- or had the Board
15 thinking about certain things as they went into the
16 mandatory hearing. So we would like to begin that
17 process up front.

18 But in terms of the site visit, we hope on
19 the 28th of April, if the Applicant can accommodate
20 us, to be able to go out to the site in the morning,
21 and perhaps into the early afternoon, depending on how
22 much time it takes, and sort of get a view of what is
23 -- to the Vogtle site in general, recognizing that
24 this, again, is an early site permit case, so we are
25 -- the focus of the case is, to a large degree, what

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1 isn't really there yet in terms of the plans for the
2 new facilities, for the potential new facilities.

3 But having said that, let me ask, Mr.
4 Blanton, is there any problem from Southern's point of
5 view perhaps being able to schedule this?

6 MR. BLANTON: No, sir. We don't think so.
7 I would just note that I don't know how much interest
8 you are going to have in seeing any of Vogtle I and
9 II, particularly maybe the intake structure, since
10 that has been discussed in some of the contentions.
11 Vogtle I will be in an outage and scheduled to end
12 April 20th, so they should be out of the outage by the
13 end, but sometimes those things can get extended.

14 But as of right now, we see no problem in
15 accommodating the 28th as being the date.

16 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Would the
17 staff have any difficulty in attending on the 28th?

18 MR. MOULDING: No, Your Honor. We should
19 be able to attend.

20 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And what
21 about the Joint Intervenors?

22 MR. SANDERS: We should be able to attend.
23 Again, I will -- or I am coordinating with my experts
24 to find out whether they are available, and also
25 whether they feel they need to see the intake

1 structures or anything else.

2 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

3 MR. SANDERS: But at least I will attend.

4 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. I would like to
5 have someone from each one of the parties there, for
6 obvious reasons. I mean, obviously, we want to make
7 sure everybody has a chance to see what the Board sees
8 and to ask any questions that they might have. We are
9 not obviously going to try to litigate this case on
10 the banks of the Savannah River, but we do want to
11 give everybody an opportunity to have an equal view of
12 whatever the Board is shown.

13 So let me go down and ask maybe Mr.
14 Blanton a series of questions, and sort of give you
15 some sense of what the Board has in mind. And if the
16 other parties have any comments on any of these
17 points, you know, please chime in as appropriate.

18 I think the Board would like to put out,
19 to the degree we can, a set of written instructions
20 regarding participation that would make it clear to
21 everyone what they need to do. And one of the things
22 we would need would be an applicant contact for the
23 site that -- someone that -- our law clerks, or myself
24 if need be, could contact and ask any questions
25 relating to the procedures or process that might go

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1 into arranging the site visit.

2 MR. BLANTON: Judge, you've hit on why I
3 have Chuck Pierce on this call.

4 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And he would
5 be the person, then.

6 MR. BLANTON: If he will volunteer to do
7 that, I would appreciate it.

8 MR. PIERCE: I'll volunteer.

9 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

10 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Who was
11 just speaking?

12 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Probably Meg Parish at
13 this point is going to be our contact.

14 THE COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. I'm
15 sorry. This is the Court Reporter.

16 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Sure.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Who was speaking
18 before Mr. Pierce?

19 JUDGE BOLLWERK: That was Mr. Blanton.

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

21 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. So Mr.
22 Pierce, then, will be the contact for Southern, and
23 Meg Parish will be the contact for the Board.

24 Can you give us any idea at this point
25 about the process and procedures for getting into the

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1 facility in terms of what ID might be required, what
2 information will have to be provided for you, when
3 that would have to occur?

4 MR. PIERCE: Well, I'll need to know,
5 certainly, the number of people and the people that
6 will be -- that will be involved by name. We will --
7 I will be -- I can send you out a -- just a sheet, but
8 basically we will need to have a picture ID and we
9 will need to go through a -- depending on the -- we
10 may have to go through a -- sort of a clearance type
11 process, but it won't be -- since we're not going
12 inside the site, the physical protected area of the
13 plant, it won't be that elaborate.

14 So right now I probably -- I think I will
15 need the names, and I will -- and you'll need to bring
16 a picture ID with you.

17 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. A quick
18 question. Will a driver's license suffice?

19 MR. PIERCE: Yes.

20 JUDGE BOLLWERK: What about an NRC
21 identification badge?

22 MR. PIERCE: NRC identification badge
23 certainly will suffice as well.

24 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

25 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Is this

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1 Mr. Moulding?

2 JUDGE BOLLWERK: That was --

3 MR. PIERCE: This is Chuck Pierce.

4 JUDGE BOLLWERK: -- Mr. Pierce.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

6 JUDGE BOLLWERK: I will confirm what the
7 current procedures are with Vogtle and get back with
8 you -- get back with Stan, and he can advise. But I
9 -- right now, my -- I think if I get the names of the
10 individuals and bring a driver's license, that will
11 suffice.

12 MR. PIERCE: Okay.

13 MR. BLANTON: This is Stan Blanton. And,
14 Your Honor, I think all of that that Chuck has told
15 you assumes that there is not any desire to go into
16 the protected area of Vogtle I and II. If there is,
17 we probably need to know that, too.

18 MR. PIERCE: Right. We'll need to do a
19 little more work if that's the case.

20 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: This is Judge Trikouros.
21 Mr. Pierce, the new tech support center that will
22 serve all four units, is that inside the current
23 protected area of Units I and II?

24 MR. PIERCE: The location of the new
25 technical support center is not inside the current

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1 protected area for I and II. It's just -- it's just
2 outside.

3 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: Okay. Thank you.

4 JUDGE BOLLWERK: What I'll do is go
5 through -- actually, we have a list of potential
6 structures or features the Board would like to see,
7 and maybe we can talk -- I think our preference,
8 frankly, is to stay outside the protected area. But
9 we will need to talk with you and see what is or might
10 be inside or outside, and then go from there.

11 Let me just see, at this point, does
12 anyone have a sense -- and let me start with the staff
13 -- of how many individuals they might be bringing?

14 MR. MOULDING: This is Patrick Moulding
15 for the staff, Your Honor. I think it would be at
16 most three people.

17 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. The staff
18 would have three. This is Judge Bollwerk. How about
19 the Joint Intervenors? And if you don't know exactly,
20 I'd prefer a high side estimate rather than a low
21 side.

22 MR. SANDERS: High side estimate, five.

23 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Five.

24 MR. SANDERS: And I would say it's
25 doubtful we'll have that many.

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1 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. What's your
2 low side, just --

3 MR. SANDERS: Low side, two.

4 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Two? Okay. Somewhere
5 between five and two, then.

6 MR. SANDERS: Yes.

7 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And how many
8 does the Applicant think that they would have?

9 MR. BLANTON: This is Stan Blanton again.
10 I would think three to five, Your Honor.

11 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Maybe that
12 depends on the number of escorts we need, etcetera.

13 MR. BLANTON: Certainly.

14 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. One thing the
15 Board would like to ask -- if we can impose on the
16 Applicant -- if you all could provide some kind of
17 initial presentation or an overview/summary briefing
18 relative to Vogtle and its ESP that might give some
19 context about what we might see as we are on the site,
20 that would be very useful to us.

21 MR. PIERCE: We will certainly be glad to
22 do that.

23 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Thank you,
24 Mr. Pierce.

25 And let me see -- let me go through some

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1 site features and see where we're at in terms of the
2 possibility of seeing these different things. And one
3 thing I should introduce is a question of
4 transportation onsite. Is this walkable? Would we
5 need to get some kind of driving -- vans or something?
6 And is that possible? That's something that, as we go
7 through these, maybe we need to talk about a little
8 bit.

9 One thing I guess the Board would
10 generally be interested in is any common or shared
11 facilities with the existing Vogtle units that will be
12 used by the potential new units. Are there a lot of
13 those? Are there --

14 MR. PIERCE: There are a couple of those,
15 mainly the -- mainly the wastewater treatment system
16 would be -- the sewage -- onsite sewage system is
17 shared.

18 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay.

19 MR. PIERCE: But I don't -- I'm trying to
20 think of anything else. I'm not sure of -- nothing
21 else comes to mind right now.

22 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. Is that inside or
23 outside the protected area?

24 MR. PIERCE: Currently, that is -- I think
25 that's inside Unit I and II protected area for that

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1 particular -- that particular system.

2 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

3 MR. PIERCE: I think that's probably the
4 only thing inside right now.

5 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Right. That's something
6 we may need to talk about and decide if that's
7 something we want to see.

8 MR. PIERCE: You can see the outside of it
9 from the outside of the protected area, as I remember.

10 JUDGE BOLLWERK: So any intake from the
11 river or any groundwater intake, those will be
12 separate systems.

13 MR. PIERCE: That's correct. The
14 Unit I/Unit II intake structure, for example, is
15 outside the protected area and accessible.

16 MR. BLANTON: And separate from -- this is
17 Stan Blanton. And separate from the III and IV intake
18 and --

19 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Anything on
20 that, Judge Jackson, that you want to add?

21 JUDGE JACKSON: I would just mention that
22 anything that we could conveniently see that would
23 give insight into the site hydrology would be useful
24 -- major features, ponds, streams, that kind of thing,
25 of course we want to see the river and its location

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1 and banks, and so on.

2 JUDGE BOLLWERK: And that sort of leads me
3 right to my next point, which is I guess the intake
4 and discharge structures for the existing facility,
5 and at least -- and I don't know how far apart they
6 are -- the location for the structures that would be
7 for the new facility as well, new facilities as well.

8 MR. PIERCE: The intake structures for the
9 new facility -- what we were looking at doing at this
10 point, and this is just tentative plans possibly, is
11 in the past we have used actually a bus to take people
12 around for some of these -- some of these events, so
13 that you could have everybody together and everybody
14 -- you know, hearing what everybody is saying. And so
15 we could get a nice sized bus to carry people around.

16 The Unit I and II structure certainly is
17 accessible by bus, so that wouldn't be -- that
18 wouldn't be a problem. The Unit III and IV future
19 intake structure is not accessible by bus. In fact,
20 it is a pretty good walk. You really have to
21 currently walk to it, and it is a pretty good walk to
22 get to it on foot.

23 There is another option that we are
24 looking at, and that is to take a boat upstream, and
25 actually take it by the outside of the intake

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1 structure, so you can see the structure from the river
2 side, and then go on up to the new intake structure
3 location and actually, you know, disembark at that
4 location, so you can walk around and see that area of
5 the Unit III and IV proposed structure.

6 JUDGE BOLLWERK: How many folks would the
7 bus hold, if you know?

8 MR. PIERCE: The bus -- we've gotten buses
9 -- we've used buses onsite that has held up to 50
10 people. So I -- you know, you can get them various
11 sizes, and I'm not sure, again, of, you know, what
12 size we need for this, but I'm certain we can get one
13 that would accommodate the needs here.

14 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. I mean, obviously,
15 having one bus rather than several would be
16 preferable, simply so everybody can stay together,
17 hear what's said, any comments or questions. When
18 would you need to know a firm number of people
19 attending, so that you know what size bus to be able
20 to get hold of?

21 MR. PIERCE: Realistically, two or three
22 weeks in advance would be plenty. A couple of weeks
23 in advance would be plenty of time there.

24 JUDGE BOLLWERK: So two or three? I'll
25 give you a choice.

1 MR. PIERCE: Well, I was thinking probably
2 the first week in April would be great.

3 JUDGE BOLLWERK: First week in April,
4 okay. By the end of that week, then?

5 MR. PIERCE: That would be -- I think that
6 would be fine. We can accommodate that.

7 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. Something like,
8 say -- hold on one second here. Let me --

9 MR. PIERCE: I haven't checked with the
10 people that provides the bus services, but I think in
11 the past we've gotten them within a couple of weeks'
12 notice.

13 JUDGE BOLLWERK: So the 4th or the 11th,
14 do you think, approximately?

15 MR. PIERCE: Right.

16 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. Well, okay.

17 MR. BLANTON: I think the 11th, Your
18 Honor, will be fine.

19 JUDGE BOLLWERK: The 11th?

20 MR. BLANTON: Yes, sir. This is Stan
21 Blanton.

22 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Thank you. All right.
23 If that changes, just let Ms. Parish know. But we'll
24 say right now April 11th is what we're looking at at
25 least.

1 MR. PIERCE: Okay, sir.

2 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right? In terms of
3 the boat -- are they going to find a boat that holds
4 everyone?

5 MR. PIERCE: Well, I think -- you know,
6 we'd have to look into that, and that's one thing we
7 will be -- if it's suitable to you all to look -- to
8 go that way, we would be looking into that over the
9 next week or two. That's correct.

10 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Now, the only
11 thing that I have to consider here -- and I raised
12 this with our General Counsel's office already -- we
13 sort of have a limit of about \$20 a person on what we
14 can do without having to reimburse you. So I don't
15 know what -- in terms of the cost where this is going
16 to run. We can certainly reimburse you, if that's
17 possible. I don't have a problem with that. If it's
18 under \$20, then, we don't have to get involved with
19 the paperwork. So --

20 MR. BLANTON: Your Honor, this is Stan
21 Blanton. Why don't you let us explore the pontoon
22 boat a little bit, and we will -- I will contact Meg
23 and let her know what the logistics and the cost and
24 that kind of thing --

25 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And, again,

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1 we are willing to pay. We are happy to pay. If it's
2 more than \$20, we definitely would insist on paying.
3 I have to say, Mr. Moulding, that would apply to the
4 staff as well, so --

5 MR. MOULDING: Yes, Your Honor.

6 MR. BLANTON: This is Blanton again. I'm
7 looking at the total number, and I've got three people
8 for the staff -- I've got potentially 13 people plus
9 the Board, and I guess, Your Honor, you are going to
10 have how many people that --

11 JUDGE BOLLWERK: We would have at least
12 six, I believe.

13 MR. BLANTON: That's going to be a --
14 we're probably talking about two boats to do all of
15 that. I don't think we have -- I would be surprised
16 if we could find a pontoon boat to get there that will
17 carry that many people. So I'll check into that.

18 MR. PIERCE: Your Honor, is that \$20 for
19 the entire event, or \$20 for things like the boat, \$20
20 for the bus?

21 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Well, I put this in terms
22 of lunch versus the bus, and I was told that would be
23 \$20 each. I didn't put it in terms of a bus versus a
24 boat, so I'm not sure. I can check with our General
25 Counsel's office and see what their interpretation

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1 would be.

2 MR. PIERCE: Okay.

3 JUDGE BOLLWERK: I don't know if they
4 combine all transportation modes or if you are allowed
5 to break it up one versus the other. I have no idea,
6 so -- but we can check on that, and I'll have Ms.
7 Parish get back to you.

8 MR. PIERCE: Thank you.

9 JUDGE BOLLWERK: I used to be an ethics
10 officer, so I have to -- not only that, just for
11 general purposes, but I have to pay attention to these
12 things, so --

13 MR. BLANTON: There's not a hardship
14 exception to that rule, Judge?

15 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Well, it depends on what
16 the hardship is. But the question would be, really,
17 I mean, if there's a way we can reimburse you, that
18 would just be the better way to go and not have to be
19 concerned about this. So --

20 MR. BLANTON: I guess the question is --
21 it sounds like the pontoon boat is something you want
22 us to explore if it helps us get access to the new
23 intake structure site.

24 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Let me see. Judge
25 Trikouros, what -- any thought?

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1 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: I think that would work
2 fine. Two pontoon boats?

3 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Judge Jackson?

4 JUDGE JACKSON: I would be interested in
5 doing that, yes.

6 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Well, we --
7 I guess we will impose on you and ask you to at least
8 look into it and see what you can come up with. And
9 we are not trying to overburden you with this, but it
10 sounds like there would be some interest in it as
11 well. If it can't be done, certainly understand. If
12 it can be done without sort of making this into a
13 major federal action as it were, we understand that.
14 So --

15 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: Just for the record, how
16 far is the walk from the Unit I/II facilities,
17 discharge intake facilities, to the Unit III --

18 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Who is
19 speaking?

20 MR. PIERCE: The actual walk is from a --
21 is --

22 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Who is
23 speaking?

24 MR. PIERCE: -- down on a transmission
25 corridor --

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1 THE COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. This is
2 the Court Reporter. Who is speaking?

3 MR. PIERCE: This is Chuck Pierce,
4 Southern Nuclear.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay.

6 MR. PIERCE: The actual walk is from a
7 point in the transmission corridor down to the
8 Vogtle III and IV intake structure location. And it's
9 a little over a mile one way.

10 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: Oh, okay.

11 MR. PIERCE: Going down there it's
12 downhill, so it's not too bad. Coming back it's
13 uphill.

14 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: Right.

15 MR. PIERCE: A little harder.

16 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: So it probably take over
17 an hour to do that.

18 JUDGE BOLLWERK: One of the -- this is
19 Judge Bollwerk. One of the concerns I have here,
20 obviously, is we would like to be -- whatever time we
21 start until the time we end, we'd like to get --
22 hopefully be done by around 2:00 or thereabouts,
23 because we and potentially the other parties on the
24 tour would need to get back to Augusta and be able to,
25 you know, change clothes, etcetera, to be ready for

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1 the evening limited appearance statement, as well as
2 have some dinner obviously, so --

3 MR. BLANTON: We'll check on that, Your
4 Honor. This is Stan Blanton.

5 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Well, if you
6 can take a look at that and get back to us, and tell
7 us if it's doable, if it's not, we would certainly
8 understand. And, again, don't do anything
9 extraordinary. If it's fairly easily arranged, that
10 would be one thing. If it's going to take -- don't,
11 you know, try to rent a steamboat from up the river
12 further or something like that, so -- all right. We
13 appreciate your effort.

14 Let me just go on to my list here in terms
15 of the other things. Obviously, the -- well,
16 potentially, the current and planned location for any
17 cooling towers we would be interested in seeing.

18 MR. PIERCE: Those are accessible.

19 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

20 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: And, certainly, the
21 Unit I and II cooling towers are -- would be good
22 examples. And I assume those are accessible.

23 MR. PIERCE: Those are accessible as well.

24 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Who's
25 speaking?

1 MR. PIERCE: This is Chuck Pierce, Souther
2 Nuclear.

3 THE COURT REPORTER: And before you?

4 JUDGE BOLLWERK: That was Judge Trikouros.

5 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: Judge Trikouros.

6 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

7 JUDGE BOLLWERK: And this is Judge
8 Bollwerk. In terms of the location of major features
9 of the new facilities, the power block, the technical
10 support center, which I think we already talked about,
11 any of the major areas that might be covered by the
12 limited work authorization request.

13 MR. PIERCE: All of those are accessible
14 without going into the power block.

15 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. And then, the
16 power block for the existing reactors, and then the
17 meteorology -- the meteorological tower, either way.
18 I think Judge Jackson has already mentioned any major
19 surface water drainage areas he would be interested in
20 seeing.

21 I don't know how accessible this is, but
22 the exclusionary boundary -- and, Judge Jackson, you
23 might want to explain what you had in mind.

24 JUDGE JACKSON: I would just like to see
25 what the boundary consists of.

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1 MR. PIERCE: We can certainly show you
2 that on a drawing and take you to parts of the
3 boundary. Parts of the boundary are a little more
4 harder to get to in terms of, you know, their walks,
5 and so forth. But certainly we can drive by the
6 boundaries that are accessible by the bus.

7 JUDGE JACKSON: This is Judge Jackson.
8 That would be great. That is what I had in mind was
9 just to --

10 MR. PIERCE: And regarding surface water
11 drainage, we can -- you know, we can certainly show
12 you the drainage, you know, design that is currently
13 -- I mean, what we currently have and what our plans
14 are in terms of our program going forward.

15 There is a pond onsite that we can -- that
16 we could take you to that it a little inaccessible.
17 I mean, it would be -- it's probably a quarter-mile
18 walk at one point, but we could get down to close
19 enough to walk to it, if that's of interest.

20 JUDGE JACKSON: This is Judge Jackson. I
21 think if we could just see where it was located,
22 perhaps we don't have to necessarily go to the bank
23 of --

24 MR. PIERCE: Okay.

25 JUDGE JACKSON: And just use some judgment

1 as to how much time we would have to see some of the
2 main features.

3 MR. PIERCE: It's a pretty little pond,
4 I'll say that.

5 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Any anybody here a
6 fisherman? I don't know if that's -- I believe that's
7 not the -- and then, the area or the -- where the new
8 transmission lines will be.

9 MR. PIERCE: Certainly, the reroute line
10 is easily accessible. The routing for the new
11 transmission line, yes, I think so. I'm trying to
12 think through in my head. I think that that is pretty
13 easy to get to as well.

14 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. That was sort
15 of all -- the list that I had. Did I miss anything,
16 either Judge Jackson or Judge Trikouros?

17 JUDGE JACKSON: This is Judge Jackson. I
18 think you hit the main things on our list.

19 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

20 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: Yes. This is Judge
21 Trikouros. That -- I think that's fine. Can the
22 Applicant suggest anything additional?

23 MR. BLANTON: This is Stan Blanton. I
24 think you covered the things that I was -- that I had
25 in mind, Your Honor. And if we think of anything else

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1 that we think would be helpful for the Board to see,
2 we'll pass that along in time that we can -- everybody
3 can make the proper arrangements.

4 But I also hear Judge Jackson's comment
5 that we need to make sure we can get all of this done
6 in the time allotted, to.

7 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Right. Let me just see
8 if the staff or the Joint Intervenors have any
9 comments on what we have outlined. The staff, first?

10 MR. MOULDING: This is Patrick Moulding
11 for the staff. I don't think we have anything to add,
12 Your Honor.

13 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Anything from
14 the Joint Intervenors?

15 MR. SANDERS: No. You've covered it.

16 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

17 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: One other -- this is
18 Judge Trikouros. I have just one other question.
19 There are no emergency response facilities other than
20 the TSC that would be accessible, I assume.

21 MR. PIERCE: Well, I'm trying to think.
22 I would have to discuss that with our emergency
23 planning folks. There are some sirens that would
24 probably be accessible, I would think. I'd have to
25 discuss that with my emergency planning people,

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1 though.

2 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: All right. Now, the
3 ERF, I assume, is somewhere in Atlanta, or quite a
4 distance away?

5 MR. PIERCE: The EOF is in Birmingham.

6 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: In Birmingham. Okay.
7 That's fine. And the TSC would be the only onsite
8 emergency facility that is accessible outside the
9 protected area?

10 MR. PIERCE: That's correct.

11 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: All right.

12 JUDGE BOLLWERK: So I take it if there's
13 a "to do" for us, then, to decide whether -- this is
14 Judge Bollwerk -- whether we want to look at the
15 wastewater treatment area within the protected area.
16 Is that -- that is still pending, I take it.

17 MR. PIERCE: Yes. And I need to -- and I
18 need to go talk to my environmental folks about that
19 as well. My mind is saying there is something outside
20 -- there is something outside as well, and now I need
21 to go discuss that with them and just get some
22 clarification on what you can see and what would be
23 inside a protected area. But I can check into that
24 and get back with you.

25 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: This is Judge Trikouros.

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1 And we did mention the Met Tower, that -- you did pick
2 that up, right?

3 MR. PIERCE: Yes. The Met Tower was
4 mentioned, and it is accessible.

5 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: Okay.

6 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. This is Judge
7 Bollwerk. Then, the -- let me just make a couple --
8 well, let me ask I guess one question. Now that we've
9 outlined all of this, what kind of timeframe do you
10 think we're looking at in terms of how long this is
11 going to take?

12 MR. PIERCE: The trip on the river will
13 probably take, you know, a good hour and a half.
14 We've done similar site tours in a couple of hours for
15 this, and probably 30 minutes for the entrance
16 presentation. So you are probably looking at four to
17 five hours.

18 JUDGE BOLLWERK: So if we started by 8:00,
19 8:30, 9:00, depending on what's reasonable for you
20 all, we would be done hopefully by 2:00, 2:30?

21 MR. PIERCE: We certainly would be. We
22 have planned that.

23 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

24 MR. PIERCE: The other thing we could do
25 is plan lunch there, have lunch brought in, and that

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1 would help things run along a little faster as well.

2 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And I guess
3 I'm back to the -- I guess the question I would raise,
4 could we bring something in, or would it be better for
5 you all to provide it?

6 MR. PIERCE: I think it would be a little
7 better for us to provide it. It's a fairly remote
8 site. There is not much around there, and we do have
9 a pretty good caterer that I think can do a good job
10 for us.

11 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And you'd
12 allow us to pay for it, I take it?

13 MR. PIERCE: Yes, sir.

14 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Okay. All right.

15 MR. PIERCE: We could arrange for that.

16 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. We appreciate
17 that. I know it causes some accounting problems
18 sometimes, but, if that were possible, that would be
19 preferable.

20 All right. In terms of dress, I have a
21 general sense of what it is, but maybe I can ask you,
22 Mr. Pierce, to say something about that, just for
23 maybe Mr. Sanders or some of the others that may not
24 have been on one of these before.

25 MR. PIERCE: Concerning?

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1 JUDGE BOLLWERK: How people should be
2 dressed.

3 MR. PIERCE: Oh. Casual is fine as far
4 as, you know, particularly going out to the intake
5 structure -- blue jeans, some type of hiking boots or
6 something is probably preferable over -- certainly
7 over dress shoes. But, you know, just be dressed to
8 be able to -- more or less for a hike, in a way.

9 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And this is
10 an industrial site, so people need to bear that in
11 mind as well.

12 MR. PIERCE: That's correct. It is
13 certainly an industrial site. You will -- we need to
14 -- we will start out in the morning giving you --
15 giving a little five-minute session on, you know, what
16 to be aware of at the site, and so forth, being at an
17 industrial site.

18 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Any questions
19 from either the staff or the Joint Intervenors on
20 that?

21 MR. MOULDING: This is Patrick Moulding
22 for the staff. No questions from the staff, Your
23 Honor.

24 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

25 MR. SANDERS: No questions from the

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1 Intervenorors either.

2 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. One other
3 question -- do you allow cameras onsite for a tour
4 like this?

5 MR. PIERCE: I will need to check into
6 that. We will -- you know, I'll just need to check in
7 and get back with you.

8 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. That's fine.
9 I appreciate it. If you'd just let us know, whatever
10 the answer is, whether -- we'll certainly accept it.
11 We just want to know what it is, that's all.

12 MR. PIERCE: Okay.

13 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right? I think that
14 about takes care of my list. Judge Jackson, did you
15 have anything that I missed?

16 JUDGE JACKSON: Nothing additional.

17 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Judge
18 Trikouros, anything?

19 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: No, nothing.

20 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Anything from
21 any of the parties, then? And I should mention -- oh,
22 also, we put out the revised general schedule about a
23 week ago, and I think we offered an opportunity to
24 respond. We haven't heard anything, but if you wanted
25 to say anything about that as well at this point, or

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1 about the site visit, or about the limited
2 appearances, this would be the time to speak up.
3 Anything from Applicant Southern, please?

4 MR. BLANTON: No, sir. This is Stan
5 Blanton. No, sir.

6 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Let me, then,
7 check with the NRC staff.

8 MR. MOULDING: This is Patrick Moulding.
9 No, the staff has nothing at this time.

10 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. And then, for
11 the Joint Intervenors?

12 MR. SANDERS: Nothing from us either.

13 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Well, it
14 sounds at this point that we've marked out the
15 parameters for both the site visit and the limited
16 appearances. You should be seeing a Federal Register
17 notice, which we will serve through the e-filing
18 system on this within the next several days, hopefully
19 by the end of the week, perhaps even as early as
20 tomorrow.

21 So, and that obviously would go in the
22 Federal Register. That generally takes about a week.
23 We will also be in contact, as I mentioned, with our
24 Office of Public Affairs to put out a press release in
25 the area, both locally in terms of Augusta and -- that

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1 area, as well as I guess they generally distribute it
2 as far as -- to Atlanta as well, if that is an
3 interest there.

4 And then, we would also have it on our
5 website. And again, we are asking for pre-
6 registration for the limited appearance statements.
7 Obviously, the site visit will be limited to the
8 parties and to the Board.

9 And as I mentioned, Ms. Parish is going to
10 be the contact on this. She will be -- since we need
11 to know by April 11th how many folks are going to be
12 attending, so that we know at least in terms of the
13 bus, at a minimum, as well as potentially the boats,
14 she will be contacting you probably early that week,
15 if not before, to see if there is any updates in terms
16 of the number of folks that you think will be
17 attending for the various parties.

18 And if, for instance -- Mr. Sanders, if
19 you have a sense earlier than that as to how many
20 folks you're going to have, please get in contact with
21 her.

22 MR. SANDERS: Yes. I'm working on that
23 now, and I'll have a definite number in the next week
24 or so. And I will --

25 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right.

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1 MR. SANDERS: -- definitely call her and
2 let her know.

3 JUDGE BOLLWERK: I appreciate that. Thank
4 you very much.

5 All right. Anything else, then, from any
6 of the parties?

7 MR. BLANTON: Nothing from the Applicant,
8 Your Honor.

9 MR. MOULDING: Noting from the staff, Your
10 Honor.

11 MR. SANDERS: Nothing from Intervenors
12 either.

13 JUDGE BOLLWERK: All right. Anything from
14 either of the Board members? Judge Jackson?

15 JUDGE JACKSON: Nothing.

16 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Judge Trikouros?

17 JUDGE TRIKOUROS: No, nothing.

18 JUDGE BOLLWERK: Nothing? All right,
19 then. Again, thank you very much for making
20 yourselves available on short notice. We appreciate
21 the arrangements that the Applicant is making to
22 provide us with a visit to the site. And if we need
23 to, we'll get together on another telephone
24 conference.

25 I suspect from here on in we can handle

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1 this by paper. But if there is a need, we will
2 certainly call a conference and have a discussion with
3 everyone.

4 Have a good day, and a good Easter
5 holiday, for those of you that are celebrating that.
6 Thank you very much.

7 (Whereupon, at 2:44 p.m., the proceedings
8 in the foregoing matter were concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

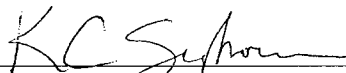
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Name of Proceeding: Southern Nuclear Operating
Company Conference

Docket Number: 52-011-ESP

Location: Teleconference

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