Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

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May 14, 2008

AR-08-0775

Ms. Elizabeth Shirk
Historical Preservation Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
34 Peachtree Street, NW
Suite 1600
Atlanta, GA 30303

SUBJECT: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Early Site Permit Application
Phase II Testing at Archaeological Site 9BK416 Within Proposed Water Line and Intake Structure
(HP-060428-001)

Dear Ms. Shirk:

Please find enclosed two copies of the *Phase II Testing at Archaeological Site 9BK416 Within Proposed Water Line and Intake Structure Vogtle Electric Generating Plant* (Phase II). The Phase II Testing was recommended in the January 28, 2008 letter from the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO recommendations were based on the findings from the July 2007, *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Water Line Corridor for the Proposed Intake Structure* and consultation with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). SNC agreed to conduct the testing as soon as possible to support the completion of the Vogtle Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for NRC.

Site 9BK416 was originally recorded in 2006 by New South Associates during a Phase I survey of the Vogtle site. At that time, site 9BK416 was recorded as a large multicomponent prehistoric site at the top of the bluff adjacent to the proposed Intake Structure for Vogtle Units 3 and 4. Subsequent to the 2006 Phase I survey, SNC re-designed the intake system to route the piping directly up the bluff from the intake structure, in lieu of following the intake access road right-of-way. SNC informed SHPO of the change in early 2007. At the direction of the SHPO, SNC had New South Associates return to conduct additional Phase I survey work on the re-located intake water line corridor. This work consisted of additional shovel tests to define the area of site 9BK416 that will be impacted by the relocation. New South Associates identified an impacted area of approximately 450 feet by 2,800 feet. This area represents approximately 8.5 percent of site 9BK416.

On January 28, 2008, SHPO provided a letter to SNC recommending additional testing. SHPO recommended three 2 by 2 meter test units be installed within the disturbed area for the proposed intake water line corridor. Findings from this Phase II testing revealed lithic material, a moderate number of ceramic artifacts in two units, and a single residual sherdlet in the third unit. The ceramic artifacts identified included Refuge and Deptford, indicative of multiple periods of occupations during the Woodland period. Most of the lithic material identified was locally procured Briar Creek chert. One projectile point was recovered during the Phase II testing.

On March 18, 2008 a meeting with SNC, New South and SHPO was held to discuss the findings from the Phase II testing and receive further guidance from SHPO. During this meeting, SHPO determined that the relocation of the proposed water line corridor was acceptable and indicated that the proposed project will affect, but not adversely affect site 9BK416. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed confirming that SNC will preserve the balance of site 9BK416 from disturbance and conduct additional investigations to further characterize the site, as directed by the SHPO.

Please contact Mr. Dale Fulton (205) 992-7536 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

T. C. Moorer

Thomas C. Moorer
Environmental Project Manager

TCM/DLF/dmw

Enclosures

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company (without Enclosures)
Mr. D. M. Lloyd, Vogtle Deployment Director
Ms. M. Caston, Vice President & General Counsel – External Affairs
Mr. C. R. Pierce, Licensing Manager
Mr. J. M. Godfrey, Environmental Affairs Manager
Mr. J. N. Stringfellow, Licensing Supervisor
Mr. J. T. Davis, Project Engineer
Document Services RTYPE: AR01
File: AR.01.01.06

Georgia Power Company (without Enclosures)
Mr. C. H. Huling, Vice President – Environmental Affairs
Mr. R. D. Just, Environmental Issues Manager
Mr. M. C. Nichols, Environmental Lab Manager

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (with Enclosures)
Mr. M. D. Notich, Environmental Project Manager