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Docket Nos.: 52-025
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ND-08-1877

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

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4 Combined License Application
Response to Request for Additional Information Letter No. 016

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated March 28, 2008, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted an application for combined licenses (COLs) for proposed Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for two Westinghouse AP1000 reactor plants, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 52. During the NRC's detailed review of this application, the NRC identified a need for additional information, involving qualification requirements for the fire protection engineer, required to complete their review of the COL application's Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) Subsection 9.5.1.8.7, "Personnel Qualification and Training." By letter dated November 26, 2008, the NRC provided SNC with Request for Additional Information (RAI) Letter No. 016 concerning this fire protection engineer qualification requirements information need. This RAI letter contains one RAI question numbered 09.05.01-2. The enclosure to this letter provides the SNC response to this RAI.

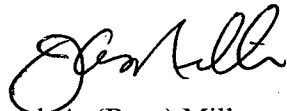
If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Wes Sparkman at (205) 992-5061.

DO92
NRC

Mr. J. A. (Buzz) Miller states he is a Senior Vice President of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Company and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY



Joseph A. (Buzz) Miller

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17 day of December, 2008

Notary Public: Ann H. Bui

My commission expires: 05/06/09

JAM/BJS/lac

Enclosure: Response to NRC RAI Letter No. 016 on the VEGP Units 3 & 4 COL Application
Involving Fire Protection Engineer Qualification Requirements

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Mr. J. H. Miller, III, President and CEO (w/o enclosure)
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President, Nuclear Operations (w/o enclosure)
Mr. T. E. Tynan, Vice President - Vogtle (w/o enclosure)
Mr. D. M. Lloyd, Vogtle Deployment Director
Mr. C. R. Pierce, Vogtle Development Licensing Manager
Mr. M. J. Ajluni, Nuclear Licensing Manager
Mr. W. A. Sparkman, COL Project Engineer
Document Services RTYPE: AR01.1053
File AR.01.02.06

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Mr. M. D. Notich, Environmental Project Manager
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Ms. K. K. Patterson, Project Manager

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Mr. J. M. Oddo, Licensing Manager

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Mr. N. C. Boyter, Vice President, AP1000 Vogtle 3 & 4 Project (w/o enclosure)

Mr. J. L. Whiteman, Principal Engineer, Licensing & Customer Interface

Southern Nuclear Operating Company

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Enclosure

Response to NRC RAI Letter No. 016

on the VEGP Units 3 & 4 COL Application

Involving

Fire Protection Engineer Qualification Requirements

FSAR Subsection 9.5.1.8.7, Personnel Qualification and Training

eRAI Tracking No. 1400

NRC RAI Number 09.05.01-2:

RG 1.189, Regulatory Position 1.6.1 states that the engineer in charge of the fire protection program (FPP) should have training and experience in fire protection and in nuclear plant safety to provide a comprehensive approach in directing the FPP for the nuclear plant. These qualification requirements were not included in FSAR Subsection 13.1.1.2.10 as referenced in Subsection 9.5.1.8.7 of the Vogtle COL application. The applicant should revise the COL application to include the above qualification requirements for the engineer in charge of fire protection.

SNC Response:

As noted in RG 1.189, Regulatory Position 1.6, the fire protection program (FPP) should be under the direction of an individual who has available staff personnel knowledgeable in both fire protection and nuclear plant safety. In addition, Regulatory Position 1.6.1 states the formulation and assurance of the fire protection program and its implementation should be the responsibility of personnel prepared by training and experience in fire protection and in nuclear plant safety to provide a comprehensive approach in directing the FPP for the nuclear power plant. As such, the responsible individual should either be knowledgeable in fire protection and nuclear plant safety or have available staff personnel knowledgeable in fire protection and nuclear plant safety.

A change to FSAR Subsection 13.1.1.2.10 will be made to include a requirement for either the engineer in charge of fire protection and/or someone available to the engineer in charge of fire protection to have training and experience in fire protection and nuclear plant safety.

Associated VEGP COL Application Revisions:

Revise COLA Part 2, FSAR Chapter 13, Section 13.1.1.2.10 to add the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph:

“The engineer in charge of fire protection is trained and experienced in fire protection and nuclear plant safety or has available personnel who are trained and experienced in fire protection and nuclear plant safety.”