



NUREG-1437
Supplement 34

Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants

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Regarding Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2

Final Report

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However, SRS is believed to be the primary source of the radionuclides, with VEGP contributing up to 10 percent of the tritium detected in the Savannah River (GDNR 2004).

Pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act [CWA]), VEGP effluent discharges are regulated by a NPDES permit. The current permit, Number GA0026786, was issued by the GDNR on June 30, 1999. The current permit expiration date was May 31, 2004, and was extended indefinitely by GDNR on that date. Sample collection to demonstrate compliance with this NPDES permit is the only requirement of the non-radiological Annual Environmental Operating Report required by NRC (SNC 2007h).

The quantitative effluent limitations regulated under the VEGP NPDES permit are shown in Table 2-5. There are eleven separate outfalls regulated under this permit. Of these, Outfall 001 is designated as the Final Plant Discharge into the Savannah River, through the underground discharge pipe. Most of the other Outfalls (002 through 011) consist of discharges of various water systems into Outfall 001. The only exceptions are:

- Outfalls 002A and 003A, which are emergency overflows to storm drains;
- Outfall 006, which is the emergency overflow from the Sewage Treatment Plant to the Savannah River; and
- Outfall 011, which is the backwash from the Intake Screens directly into the Savannah River at the intake screen location (SNC 2007a).

The effluent limitations for each outfall are provided in Table 2-5.

The NPDES permit does not regulate the discharge of radionuclides from the facility, and does not require routine monitoring of the temperature of the discharge to the Savannah River (SNC 2007a).

A review of the quarterly NPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports since 2002 identified a total of six exceedances, or possible exceedances, of permit standards (SNC 2007i). These included two sample results that exceeded permit standards for oil and grease (O&G), two that exceeded standards for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), one that may have exceeded a standard for Total Residual Chlorine, and one event in which influent flow exceeded the capacity of the Waste Water Retention Basins, resulting in a discharge of water that bypassed the required outfall (SNC 2007i). In all cases, these exceedances were relatively minor, did not result in impacts to the Savannah River, and did not result in enforcement action. Also, each event was immediately reported to GDNR, investigated, and corrective actions taken (SNC 2007i).