



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

January 21, 2009

Mr. Tom E. Tynan  
Vice President  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant  
7821 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

**SUBJECT: VOGTLE NUCLEAR PLANT – REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR  
OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS 05000424/2009301 AND  
05000425/2009301**

Dear Mr. Tynan:

In a telephone conversation on January 20, 2009, between Mr. Richard D. Brigdon, Operations Training Manager, and Mr. Ronald F. Aiello, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Vogtle Nuclear Plant. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the weeks June 1 and June 8, 2009. The written examination is scheduled to be administered during the week of June 8, 2009. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of May 11, 2009.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, the NRC will prepare the written examination outline and your staff will prepare the operating test outlines, operating tests, and the written examination based on the guidelines in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outlines by March 18, 2009. Mr. Edwin Lea, Chief Examiner, will provide a written examination outline to your staff by February 25, 2009. The operating tests, written examination, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due by March 31, 2009. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines, examinations, and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in

receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by OMB, under approval number 3150-0018, which expires on June 30, 2009. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at [infocollectsresource@nrc.gov](mailto:infocollectsresource@nrc.gov); and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Brigdon has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination

procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Edwin Lea, Chief Examiner, at (404) 562-4567 (Internet E-mail: [edwin.lea@nrc.gov](mailto:edwin.lea@nrc.gov)), or me at (404) 562-4550 (Internet E-mail: [malcolm.widmann@nrc.gov](mailto:malcolm.widmann@nrc.gov)).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-424, 50-425  
License Nos.: NPF-68, NPF-81

(cc: - See Page 4)

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(cc continued on page 5)

(cc continued from Page 4)

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procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Edwin Lea, Chief Examiner at (404) 562-4567, (Internet E-mail: edwin.lea@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 562-4550, (Internet E-mail: malcolm.widmann@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,  
**/RA/**  
 Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief  
 Operations Branch  
 Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-424, 50-425  
 License Nos.: NPF-68, NPF-81

(cc: w/encl - See Page 4)

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SIGNATURE	<b>/RA/</b>	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/		
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DATE	1/21/2009	1/21/2009	1/21/2009	1/21/2009	1/ /2009	1/ /2009
E-MAIL COPY?	YES   NO	YES   NO	YES   NO	YES   NO	YES   NO	YES   NO

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