Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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U.S.NRC
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Protecting People and the Environment

Vogtle ESP Mandatory Hearing

March 23-25, 2009

NRC Staff Presentation Topic #9

Deferrals to COL

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Presenter:
(Safety Review)

Christian Araguas

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NRO/DNRL/NWE1

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"Deferrals to COL"

- The Staff determined that all requirements applicable to the requested early site permit and limited work authorization have been met, subject to permit conditions and ITAAC.
- No review required for the ESP or LWA has been deferred to the COL stage.

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COL Action Items

Definition:

COL Action Items identify certain matters that shall be addressed in the FSAR by an applicant for a CP or COL who submits an application referencing the Vogtle ESP. These items constitute information requirements but do not form the only acceptable set of information in the FSAR. An applicant may depart from or omit these items, provided that the departure or omission is identified and justified in the FSAR. In addition, these items do not relieve an applicant from any requirement in 10 CFR Parts 50 and 52 that governs the application. After issuance of a CP or COL, these items are not controlled by NRC requirements unless such items are restated in the preliminary safety analysis report or FSAR, respectively.

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COL Action Items

Vogtle ESP FSER COL Action Items

- 2.2-1: A COL or CP applicant should address the potential accidental release of hydrazine from onsite storage tanks that may have an impact on control room habitability for the new units.
  - This analysis requires design information about the control room, that is not required at the ESP stage.

- 2.2-2: A COL or CP applicant should identify the quantities of the chemicals that will be used for the proposed Units 3 and 4 at VEGP and address their potential impact on control room habitability.
  - Since the chemical quantities were not provided, the staff could not determine the potential impact on control habitability. In addition, since design information about the control room is not required at the ESP stage, this review is expected to be evaluated at the COL stage.

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COL Action Items

- 2.3-1: If, at the COL or CP stage, the applicant chooses an alternative plant design that requires the use of a ultimate heat sink (UHS) cooling tower, the applicant will need to identify the appropriate meteorological site characteristics (i.e., maximum evaporation and drift loss and minimum water cooling conditions) used to evaluate the design of the chosen UHS cooling tower.
  - The purpose of this action item is solely to identify the need for additional site characteristics in the event that an applicant for a COL referencing this ESP relies on a design that requires a UHS cooling tower.
  - Currently, SNC has chosen to construct an AP1000 that uses a passive containment cooling system (PCS) instead of a safety related UHS. The PCS is not significantly influenced by local weather conditions and therefore specific meteorological site characteristics associated with it are not needed for the ESP review.

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COL Action Items

- 2.4-1: A COL or CP applicant will need to confirm that no chelating agents will be comingled with radioactive waste liquids and that such agents will not be used to mitigate an accidental release. Alternatively, the applicant should repeat the distribution coefficient experiments with chelating agents included, and incorporate these newly determined distribution coefficients into the analysis to demonstrate that 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B, Table 2 is satisfied.
  - The applicant's analysis assumes that chelating agents will not mix with radiological liquid effluents. The staff reviewed this analysis and determined that 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B limits can be met. In an RAI response, the applicant did not rule out the potential for future use of chelating agents. Because of the potential effect chelating agents may have on radionuclide transport, the staff has included an action item to address this issue at the COL stage.

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COL Action Items

- 13.6-1: The COL or CP applicant will need to provide the specific access control measures to address the existing rail spur.
  - Specific access control measures are part of security plans, which are not required for review at the ESP stage.
  - During a site audit, the staff identified a rail spur that entered the applicant's owner controlled area. This was not specifically addressed in SNC's ESP application. Therefore, the purpose of the action item is to ensure that a COL applicant referencing this ESP addresses the rail spur in its security plans.

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Presenter:
(Environmental Review)

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Environmental Review

- The environmental review encompasses all subject matter areas necessary for the ESP application, and no required review has been deferred to the COL stage.
- In FEIS Section 3.2.3, the staff identified the analysis of the radioactive waste management system as being deferred to the COL stage.
- The staff conducted its ESP analysis and reached impact conclusions concerning liquid and gaseous effluent releases as shown in Section 4.9 and 5.9.
- In Section 3.2.3, the staff only intended to indicate that the final design information may change at the COL stage, which may constitute new and significant information for the COL environmental review.

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