

May 22, 2009

Dr. Mario V. Bonaca, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
REPORT ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT,
UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Dr. Bonaca:

During the 561st meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (the Committee) held on April 2-4, 2009, the Committee completed its review of the license renewal application for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, and the associated final safety evaluation report prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the staff). In its final report, dated April 10, 2009, the Committee recommends renewal of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant operating license. The staff appreciates the Committee's expeditious review of the plant's license renewal application and the associated final safety evaluation report.

The staff notes that the Committee's final report acknowledges the staff's observation of water in manholes that contain medium-voltage cables important to safety. As discussed in NUREG-1920, "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the License Renewal of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2," Commitment 26, the applicant has committed to implement an aging management program for these cables. This program includes periodic inspections of cable manholes for water accumulation and removal of water (as needed) and testing of cables to detect deterioration of the insulation due to wetting. This program will be implemented and initial inspections completed prior to the period of extended operation. The Committee also noted that water in the manholes is a generic, current operating plant issue that is being addressed through the Reactor Oversight Process.

M. Bonaca

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The staff recognizes the commitment to safety of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and appreciates the Committee's continued support of the license renewal process.

Sincerely,

/RA Bruce S. Mallett for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner Svinicki
SECY

M. Bonaca

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The staff recognizes the commitment to safety of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and appreciates the Committee's continued support of the license renewal process.

Sincerely,

/RA Bruce S. Mallett for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner Svinicki
SECY

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Letter to Mario V. Bonaca from R. W. Borchardt dated May 22, 2009

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UNITS 1 AND 2

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