

June 8, 2009

APPLICANT: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

PROJECT: Vogtle Combined License Application for Units 3 and 4

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF A MEETING TO DISCUSS AN ADDITIONAL LIMITED WORK AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT PROPOSED UNITS 3 AND 4

On April 29, 2009, staff from the Office of New Reactors conducted a public meeting at NRC Headquarters with staff from Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) regarding Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) proposed Units 3 and 4. The focus of the meeting was to discuss SNC's potential submittal of a limited work authorization (LWA) request in conjunction with its already submitted combined license (COL) application. The LWA would request approval for placement of reinforced bar and for initial concrete pour for the nuclear island basemat.

During the meeting, SNC provided the staff with a presentation of its proposal to submit an LWA request as part of revision 1 to the VEGP COL application. Currently, SNC anticipates submitting this request at the end of May 2009. SNC stated that its LWA request would consist of a discussion of the scope of activities; an incorporation by reference of Westinghouse's AP1000 design control document sections 3.7 and 3.8 safety analysis; a reference to the VEGP early site permit (ESP) final environmental impact statement (FEIS); a reference to the VEGP ESP site redress plan; and a discussion of SNC's technical qualifications. SNC also discussed with the staff its construction schedule for proposed Units 3 and 4 and provided the staff with timeframes for when a LWA approval would be needed. In order to meet SNC's needs, the staff would have to complete its review and issue an LWA between March 2011 and June 2011. SNC expressed that its purpose in seeking an LWA was to maintain continuity of work with its previously requested LWA under the VEGP ESP application, as well as to minimize additional costs due to potential delays in its construction schedule.

The staff asked several questions of SNC regarding its approach for submittal of an additional LWA. The staff stated that given the NRC's interpretation of "incorporation by reference" (IBR), it was not sure how the LWA request could incorporate design information in the AP1000 DCD that is not certified. The staff stated that SNC would need to submit the design information within the scope of the LWA request as part of its COL application. The staff also questioned SNC's proposed reliance on the FEIS completed for the VEGP ESP application. The staff stated that while SNC could certainly rely on the previously completed FEIS, the LWA request constitutes a separate licensing action and would require a supplemental environmental report be provided, and a supplemental EIS be completed. The staff also stated that because the LWA would approve basemat design information separate and much earlier than the AP1000 rulemaking, that SNC assumes the risk of constructing a basemat that would not be consistent with the certified design. The staff expressed concern over how it would reconcile the design approved in the LWA with the design that would ultimately be certified and IBRed in the COL application.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the staff stated that it still needed to assure itself that the regulations allow for SNC's proposal and that the resources exist to complete the LWA review. The staff committed to discuss SNC's approach further internally and provide SNC with a response as to whether an additional LWA request, given the previously discussed complexities, would be feasible.

**/RA/**

Christian Araguas, Project Manager  
AP1000 Projects Branch 1  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosures:   1.     List of Meeting Attendees for April 29<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting (ML091480204)  
                  2.     Agenda for April 29<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting (ML091480175)  
                  3.     SNC Slides for April 29<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting (ML091480350)

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