

May 21, 2010

Mr. Joseph A. (Buzz) Miller  
Executive Vice President  
Nuclear Development  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 ADVANCED FINAL  
SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT WITH NO OPEN ITEMS FOR CHAPTER 4,  
"REACTOR"

Dear Mr. Miller:

By letter dated March 28, 2008, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted its application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requesting combined licenses (COLs) for two AP1000 advanced passive pressurized water reactors in accordance with the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants." The NRC formally docketed the application on May 30, 2008. These reactors are identified as Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 and would be located in Burke County, Georgia. The docket numbers established for VEGP Units 3 and 4 are 52-025 and 52-026, respectively. Subsequent to the original VEGP COL application, SNC updated and revised the application by letters dated May 22, 2009; September 23, 2009; October 2, 2009; and December 11, 2009.

Based on its review of SNC's application, the staff prepared the enclosed Advanced Final Safety Evaluation Report (AFSER) with no open items for Chapter 4, "Reactor." Unless otherwise stated in the AFSER with no open items, the staff's review was based on revisions and updates made to the VEGP COL application through December 11, 2009. Issuance of this AFSER is an important milestone in the staff's review to determine whether SNC's application meets the Commission's regulations.

The staff concludes that the enclosed AFSER with no open items does not contain any information for which exemption from public disclosure has been sought or approved. However, the NRC will withhold the enclosed AFSER from public disclosure for ten calendar days from the date of this letter to allow SNC the opportunity to verify the staff's conclusion that the AFSER contains no such exempt information. If within that time, you do not request that all or portions of the AFSER be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," the enclosure will be made available for public inspection through the NRC's Public Document Room and the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Public Electronic Reading Room section of the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ravindra Joshi, the lead project manager for the VEGP COL application at (301) 415-6191, [ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov](mailto:ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Jeffrey Cruz, Branch Chief  
AP1000 Projects Branch (NWE 1)  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:  
Safety Evaluation Report, Chapter 4

cc w/ encl: see next page

The staff concludes that the enclosed AFSER with no open items does not contain any information for which exemption from public disclosure has been sought or approved. However, the NRC will withhold the enclosed AFSER from public disclosure for ten calendar days from the date of this letter to allow SNC the opportunity to verify the staff's conclusion that the AFSER contains no such exempt information. If within that time, you do not request that all or portions of the AFSER be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," the enclosure will be made available for public inspection through the NRC's Public Document Room and the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Public Electronic Reading Room section of the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ravindra Joshi, the lead project manager for the VEGP COL application at (301) 415-6191, [ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov](mailto:ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Jeffrey Cruz, Branch Chief  
 AP1000 Projects Branch (NWE 1)  
 Division of New Reactor Licensing  
 Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:  
 Safety Evaluation Report, Chapter 4

cc w/ encl: See next page

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NRO-002

OFFICE	LA:DNRL/NWE1:	PM:DNRL/NWE1	OGC	BC:DNRL/NWE1
NAME	PBlechman	RJoshi	AHodgdon	JCruz
DATE	04/15/2010	02/09/10	02/18/10	05/21/2010

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COL - Vogtle Mailing List

(Revised 01/11/2010)

cc:

Attorney General  
Law Department  
132 Judicial Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mr. Jeffrey T. Gasser  
Executive Vice President  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. M. Stanford Blanton  
Esquire  
Balch and Bingham, LLP  
P.O. Box 306  
Birmingham, AL 35201

O. C. Harper, IV  
Vice President - Resources Planning and  
Nuclear Development  
Georgia Power Company  
241 Ralph McGill Boulevard  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Ms. Michele Boyd  
Legislative Director  
Energy Program  
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy  
and Environmental Program  
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Steven M. Jackson  
Senior Engineer - Power Supply  
Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia  
1470 Riveredge Parkway, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30328-4684

County Commissioner  
Office of the County Commissioner  
Burke County Commission  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

David H. Jones  
Site Vice President  
Plant Vogtle - ATTN: Units 3 & 4  
7825 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. James Davis  
ESP Project Engineer  
Southern Nuclear Company  
PO Box 1295, BIN B056  
Birmingham, AL 35201

Mr. Reece McAlister  
Executive Secretary  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Director  
Consumer's Utility  
Counsel Division  
Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Plaza Level East, Suite 356  
Atlanta, GA 30334-4600

Mr. Thomas O. McCallum  
Site Development Project Engineer  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.  
PO Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Arthur H. Domby, Esquire  
Troutman Sanders  
Nations Bank Plaza  
600 Peachtree Street, NE  
Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30308-2216

Mr. James H. Miller  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201

COL - Vogtle Mailing List

Mr. Joseph (Buzz) Miller  
Executive Vice President  
Nuclear Development  
P.O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Wesley A. Sparkman  
COL Project Engineer  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Thomas Moorer  
Environmental Project Manager  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.  
PO Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Gene Stilp  
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Mr. Charles R. Pierce  
Vogtle Deployment Licensing Manager  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.  
PO Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney  
IBEX ESI  
4641 Montgomery Avenue  
Suite 350  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Mr. M. W. Price  
Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
2100 East Exchange Place  
P.O. Box 1349  
Tucker, GA

Resident Inspector  
Vogtle Plant  
8805 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Resident Manager  
Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant  
7821 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Jerry Smith  
Commissioner  
District 8  
Augusta-Richmond County Commission  
1332 Brown Road  
Hephzibah, GA 30815

COL - Vogtle Mailing List

Email

APH@NEI.org (Adrian Heymer)  
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)  
BrinkmCB@westinghouse.com (Charles Brinkman)  
chris.maslak@ge.com (Chris Maslak)  
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)  
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)  
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)  
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)  
Derlinda.Bailey@chguernsey.com (Derinda Bailey)  
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)  
james.beard@gene.ge.com (James Beard)  
jgutierrez@morganlewis.com (Jay M. Gutierrez)  
jim.riccio@wdc.greenpeace.org (James Riccio)  
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)  
JJNesrsta@cpsenergy.com (James J. Nesrsta)  
John.O'Neill@pillsburylaw.com (John O'Neill)  
Joseph\_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)  
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)  
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)  
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)  
Marc.Brooks@dhs.gov (Marc Brooks)  
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)  
mark.beaumont@wsms.com (Mark Beaumont)  
Mark.Crisp@chguernsey.com (Mark Crisp)  
matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)  
mcaston@southernco.com (Moanica Caston)  
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)  
mike\_moran@fpl.com (Mike Moran)  
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)  
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)  
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)  
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)  
paul.gaukler@pillsburylaw.com (Paul Gaukler)  
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)  
pshastings@duke-energy.com (Peter Hastings)  
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)  
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)  
sandra.sloan@areva.com (Sandra Sloan)  
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)  
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)  
steven.hucik@ge.com (Steven Hucik)  
Tom.Bilik@nrc.gov (Thomas Bilik)  
tomccall@southernco.com (Tom McCallum)  
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)  
VictorB@bv.com (Bill Victor)  
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)  
whelmore@aol.com (Bill Elmore)