

November 3, 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 – COMBINED
LICENSE APPLICATION - ADVANCED SAFETY EVALUATION WITHOUT OPEN
ITEMS FOR CHAPTER 19, “PROBABILISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT”

Dear Mr. Miller:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is preparing an Advanced Safety Evaluation (ASE) without open items (OIs) for each chapter of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 Combined License Application (COLA) submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) on March 28, 2008.

The staff’s ASE without OIs for Chapter 19, “Probabilistic Risk Assessment,” is being provided to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee to support upcoming meetings of the ACRS Subcommittee, scheduled to be held in December 2010. The Chapter 19 ASE does not contain Appendix 19A, “Loss of Large Area of the Plant due to Explosions or Fires.” The staff intends to provide Appendix 19A at a later date.

The enclosed ASE without OIs is being provided only to SNC for review of proprietary information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 “Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding.” The staff concludes that the enclosed ASE does not contain any information for which exemption from public disclosure has been sought or approved or any factual errors. However, the NRC will withhold the enclosed ASE from public disclosure for ten business days from the date of this letter to allow you the opportunity to verify the staff’s conclusion that the ASE contains no such exempt information or any factual errors. If within the ten day period, you do not request that all or portions of the ASE be withheld from public disclosure, the enclosure will be made available for public inspection through the NRC Public Document Room and the Publicly Available Records component of NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) and placed on the NRC’s public web page for this application.

Document transmitted herewith
contains sensitive unclassified
information. When separated from the
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“DECONTROLLED.”

J. Miller

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If 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.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jeffrey Cruz, Chief
AP1000 Projects Branch 1 (NWE1)
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation, Chapter 19

cc w/o encl: See next page

J. Miller

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|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| NAME | RJoshi | KGoldstein | JCruz |
| DATE | 11/03/10 | 11/03/10 | 11/03/10 |

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COL - Vogtle Mailing List
cc:

(Revised 08/09/2010)

Attorney General
Law Department
132 Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resident Inspector
Vogtle Plant
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

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

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

Rita Kilpatrick
250 Arizona Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30307

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

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

Gene Stilp
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

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

COL - Vogtle Mailing List

Email

anfauk@southernco.com (Nicole Faulk)
APH@NEI.org (Adrian Heymer)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
bob.masse@opc.com (Resident Manager)
bobbie@wand.org (Bobbie Wand)
BrinkmCB@westinghouse.com (Charles Brinkman)
chris.maslak@ge.com (Chris Maslak)
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
Derlinda.Bailey@chguernsey.com (Derinda Bailey)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
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)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
jtdavis@southernco.com (Jim Davis)
jtgasser@southernco.com (Jeffrey Gasser)
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.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)
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@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)
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)

COL - Vogtle Mailing List

sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
steven.hucik@ge.com (Steven Hucik)
tcmoorer@southernco.com (Thomas Moorer)
Tom.Bilik@nrc.gov (Thomas Bilik)
tomccall@southernco.com (Tom McCallum)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)
whelmore@aol.com (Bill Elmore)