November 19, 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 3, "DESIGN OF STRUCTURES, COMPONENTS, EQUIPMENT, AND SYSTEMS"

Dear Mr. Miller:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 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 3, "Design of Structures, Components, Equipment, and Systems" 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 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 that ten day period, you do not request that all or portions of the ASE be withheld from public disclosure, the enclosure will be made publicly 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 place don the NRC's public web page for this application.

Document transmitted herewith contains sensitive unclassified information. When separated from the enclosure, this document is "DECONTROLLED."

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Terri Spicher, the project manager for the VEGP COL application at (301) 415-1670, Terri.Spicher@nrc.gov or 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
52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation, Chapter 3

cc w/o encl: see next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Jeffrey Cruz, Chief
AP1000 Projects Branch 1 (NWE1)
Division of New Reactor Licensing
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Docket Nos. 52-025
52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation, Chapter 3

cc w/o encl: see next page

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