

**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
42 Inverness Center Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35242



JUN 02 2010

Docket No.: 52-011

ND-10-1117

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4
Site Safety Analysis Report License Amendment Request
Revised Backfill Geometry - Response to Request for Additional Information

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated May 24, 2010, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a License Amendment Request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in accordance with 10 CFR 50.90 and 10 CFR 50.92, to change the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 Site Safety Analysis Report (SSAR). The requested change would modify the classification of backfill over the slopes of Units 3 and 4 excavations from Category 1 and 2 backfill to engineered granular backfill (EGB). During the NRC's review of this amendment request, the NRC identified a need for additional information regarding the environmental considerations. This additional information request was conveyed to SNC by telephone on May 28, 2010. The enclosure to this letter provides SNC's response to this additional information request.

The contents of this letter contain no NRC commitments. The SNC licensing contacts for this amendment request are C. R. Pierce at (205) 992-7872 or B. W. Waites at (205) 992-7024.

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NLO

Mr. M. K. Smith states he is the Technical Support Director for Southern Nuclear Operating Company, is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY



Michael K. Smith

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of June, 2010

Notary Public: Deborah A. Jaworska

My commission expires: October 24, 2012

MKS/DLF/CHM

Enclosure: Response to NRC Request for Additional Information



cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Mr. J. H. Miller, III, President and CEO (w/o enclosure)
Mr. J. A. Miller, Executive Vice President, Nuclear Development (w/o enclosure)
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President, Nuclear Operations (w/o enclosure)
Mr. B. L. Ivey, Vice President, Nuclear Development Support (w/o enclosure)
Mr. D. H. Jones, Site Vice President, Vogtle 3 & 4
Mr. T. E. Tynan, Vice President - Vogtle (w/o enclosure)
Mr. D. M. Lloyd, Vogtle 3 & 4 Project Support Director (w/o enclosure)
Mr. C. R. Pierce, AP1000 Licensing Manager
Mr. M. J. Ajluni, Nuclear Licensing Manager
Mr. J. D. Williams, Vogtle 3 & 4 Site Support Manager
Mr. T. C. Moorer, Manager, Environmental Affairs, Chemistry and Radiological Services
Mr. J. T. Davis, Vogtle 3 & 4 Site Licensing Manager
Mr. B. W. Waites, Construction Licensing Project Engineer
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File AR.01.01.06

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Mr. C. P. Patel, Project Manager of New Reactors
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Mr. M. D. Notich, Environmental Project Manager
Mr. L. M. Cain, Senior Resident Inspector of VEGP 1 & 2
Mr. J. D. Fuller, Senior Resident Inspector of VEGP 3 & 4

Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Commissioner's Office

Mr. Chris Clark, Commissioner

Georgia Power Company

Mr. T. W. Yelverton, Nuclear Development Director
Ms. A. N. Faulk, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs Manager

Oglethorpe Power Corporation

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Mr. K. T. Haynes, Director of Contracts and Regulatory Oversight

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Mr. S. M. Jackson, Vice President, Power Supply

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Mr. S. D. Rupperecht, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs & Strategy (w/o enclosure)
Mr. N. C. Boyter, Consortium Project Director Vogtle Units 3 & 4 (w/o enclosure)
Mr. S. A. Bradley, Vogtle Project Licensing Manager
Mr. M. A. Melton, Manager, Regulatory Interfaces
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Mr. G. A. Zinke, NuStart & Entergy
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Mr. T. Beville, DOE/PM

Southern Nuclear Operating Company

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Enclosure

Response to NRC Request for Additional Information

Response to NRC Request for Additional Information

NRC Question No. 1

Under 10 CFR 51.21, Criteria for and Identification of Licensing and Regulatory Actions Requiring Environmental Assessments, the License Amendment Request (LAR) requires the NRC to perform an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts associated with the proposed amendment. Based on the environmental considerations in the LAR, the SNC environmental team determined no adverse impacts will result from the utilization of engineered granular backfill (EGB) along the side slopes of the excavation in lieu of Category 1 and 2 as originally proposed in the SSAR. This activity has no net impact on the quantity or placement of backfill required for the project. Will reclassifying the backfill material to allow EGB material to be placed along the side slopes require additional land disturbing activities on the VEGP property that have not been previously evaluated by the NRC? This includes areas evaluated in the Early Site Permit (ESP) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) NUREG-1872, issued August 2008; Amendment Number 1 to the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant ESP Site Permit Number ESP-004 issued by letter dated May 21, 2010; or the LAR currently being evaluated by the NRC that was submitted under SNC letter ND-10-1005, Revised Site Safety Analysis Report Markup for Onsite Sources of Backfill, Part 2, dated May 24, 2010.

SNC Response:

No. All onsite backfill material currently being considered for use as EGB material will be excavated from areas evaluated in the ESP FEIS, the areas included in Amendment 1 issued on May 21, 2010, and the areas currently being evaluated by NRC that were included in the LAR submitted under SNC letter ND-10-1005, dated May 24, 2010.

The onsite areas that have been or are currently being evaluated for environmental impacts associated with land disturbing activities and suitable as potential backfill sources consist of the following:

- Powerblock
- Cooling Tower
- Switchyard
- Borrow Area 4
- Temporary Parking
- Temporary Warehouse, Office, and Laydown
- Spoils Areas
- North Stockpile Area (NOI 3, west)
- Borrow Area 1C (NOI 25)
- Railroad Borrow Area (NOI 28)