



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

June 14, 2010

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. David H. Jones  
Nuclear Site Vice President Vogtle Units 3 & 4  
7825 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

SUBJECT: PERIODIC ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION PROGRAM RESULTS

Dear Mr. Jones:

The NRC's issuance of an Early Site Permit (ESP) and Limited Work Authorization (LWA) to Southern Nuclear Operating Company (the applicant) on August 26, 2009, authorized limited construction activities for two new nuclear reactors at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant site. In a letter to Mr. J.A. Miller dated November 12, 2009, the NRC indicated that construction oversight inspections would be conducted to verify that those activities authorized by the LWA are conducted in accordance with regulatory requirements. In addition to conducting inspections, the NRC's construction oversight process includes a periodic assessment to facilitate timely and predictable NRC decisions regarding appropriate agency actions used to oversee, inspect, and assess licensee performance. The NRC is implementing the periodic assessment process at this time.

The periodic assessment process is governed by NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 2505 that indicates the assessment process primarily:

- begins after a LWA (or Combined License) has been issued and after there is sufficient activity occurring for the assessment to be meaningful;
- consists of a rolling 6-month assessment period that is summarized in semi-annual performance reviews;
- involves annual public meetings communicating the assessment results annually based on the anniversary date that the assessment process began; and
- continues until the Reactor Oversight Process has been fully implemented.

Based on the ongoing and projected activities at the Vogtle site, the NRC is beginning the assessment process at the start of the next calendar quarter. Although the 6-month assessment period typically uses the last two quarters of inspection input, the first semi-annual performance review will also consider performance information dating back to the issuance of the LWA. As a result of beginning the assessment process at the start of the next quarter, NRC is establishing July 1<sup>st</sup> each year as the anniversary date for the beginning of the construction assessment process. The first annual public meeting to discuss licensee performance would be

scheduled within six weeks of the anniversary date of July 1, 2011. Enclosed are the planned inspections for this period.

Additional information on the methods and processes used in the assessment of construction inspection program results can be found in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 2505, "Periodic Assessment of Construction Inspection Program Results."

Should you have any questions regarding our inspection activities or the performance assessment process, please contact me at 404-997-4407.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

David A. Ayres, Chief  
Construction Projects Branch 4  
Division of Construction Projects

Docket Nos. 52-011, 52-025, 52-026

Cc: See next page

Enclosure: Planned Inspections through June 30, 2011

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David A. Ayres, Chief  
 Construction Projects Branch 4  
 Division of Construction Projects

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Cc: See next page

Enclosure: Planned Inspections through June 30, 2011

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE     
  NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE     
  SENSITIVE     
  NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS:  Yes     
 ACCESSION NUMBER: ML101650450     
  SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:DCP						
SIGNATURE	LSM						
NAME	L. Mellen						
DATE	6/14/2010						
E-MAIL COPY?	YES      NO						

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY     
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Letter to David Jones from David A. Ayres dated June 14, 2010.

SUBJECT: PERIODIC ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION PROGRAM  
RESULTS

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### Planned inspections through June 30, 2011

The inspections listed below are planned to be conducted by June 30, 2011, but are not necessarily all-inclusive. Inspections may be deferred pending construction schedules and other factors.

- Backfill inspections for Units 3 and 4
- When the backfill reaches the bottom of the Nuclear Island the Shear Wave tests will be inspected
- Four Quality Assurance Inspections will be conducted to cover entire program during the year
- Commercial Grade Dedication Program Inspection
- 50.55e & Part 21 Inspection
- FFD program follow-up inspection
- The following will be inspected for both units when the work occurs:
  - Mud Mat I,
  - Waterproof Membrane
  - Mud Mat II
  - Basemat
  - Structural Steel
  - Concrete Batch Plant
- Assuming the delivery schedule for the vessel rings is accurate, the rings will be inspected for the following:
  - Radiation Protection
  - Welding
  - Lifting
  - Fitting
  - QA records
- CA20 site assembly, MSE wall erection & containment vessel welding inspections and CA01 assembly