

September 3, 2010

Mr. Robert D. Perry  
Special Projects Manager  
Office of Environmental Programs  
South Carolina Department of  
Natural Resources  
1000 Assembly Street, Room 310A  
P.O. Box 167  
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SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON  
THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4  
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, I am forwarding a copy of NUREG-1947; Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Combined Licenses (COLs) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4 for your review and comments. The NRC is reviewing the application submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) and several co-applicants for two COLs to construct and operate two new nuclear units at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) site in Burke County, GA. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared the DSEIS to include an analysis of relevant environmental issues.

The NRC staff completed the DSEIS and the associated *Federal Register* Notice of Availability. The notice advises the public that the DSEIS is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Documents Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides access through the NRC Electronic Reading Room link. The accession number in ADAMS for the DSEIS is ML102370278. The DSEIS can also be found at the NRC VEGP COL-specific webpage at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/vogtle.html>. In addition, the Burke County Library located at 130 Hwy 24 South, Waynesboro, GA 30830 has agreed to maintain a copy of the DSEIS and make it available for public inspection.

This DSEIS is a supplement to the Final EIS for the early site permit (ESP) issued on August 26, 2009, to SNC and the same co-applicants. An ESP is a Commission approval of a site suitable for construction and operation of one or more new nuclear units. Under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) CFR 51.50(c), a COL applicant referencing an ESP need not submit information or analyses regarding environmental issues that were resolved in the ESP EIS, except to the extent the COL applicant has identified any new and potentially significant information. Accordingly, in preparing the DSEIS, the NRC staff considered whether new and significant information has been identified.

The NRC plans to hold a public meeting to present the analysis and results of the DSEIS on October 7, 2010, at the Augusta Technical College, Waynesboro Campus, 216 Hwy 24 South, Waynesboro, GA 30830. The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. For your information, the meeting will be transcribed and will include a presentation of the contents of the DSEIS and the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the meeting will be preceded by an open house session from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis. You and your staff are invited to attend.

As discussed in Section 11.7 of the DSEIS, the staff's preliminary recommendation is that the COLs and requested Limited Work Authorization (LWA) should be issued. This preliminary recommendation is based on (1) the Environmental Report (ER) submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company, as revised; and responses to staff requests for additional information; (2) the staff's review conducted for the early site permit referenced by the COL application and the staff assessment documented in the ESP environmental impact statement (EIS); (3) consultation with Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies; (4) the staff's own independent review of potential new and significant information available since preparation and publication of the ESP EIS, and; (5) the assessments summarized in the DSEIS, including the potential mitigation measures identified. Finally, the staff concludes that the requested LWA construction activities defined at 10 CFR 50.10(a) and described in the site redress plan would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts that cannot be redressed.

Please provide any information or comments on the DSEIS that you consider appropriate during the comment period, which ends on November 24, 2010. Please include in these comments any information you consider appropriate consistent with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The NRC may consider additional comments after the comment period ends to the extent practicable. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, Washington DC 20555-0001 or by e-mail to [Vogtle.COLAEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:Vogtle.COLAEIS@nrc.gov).

R. Perry

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A separate notice of filing of the DSEIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Mallecia Sutton, NRC Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-0673 or via e-mail to [Mallecia.Sutton@nrc.gov](mailto:Mallecia.Sutton@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Gregory P. Hatchett, Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: See next page

R. Perry

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A separate notice of filing of the DSEIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Mallecia Sutton, NRC Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-0673 or via e-mail to [Mallecia.Sutton@nrc.gov](mailto:Mallecia.Sutton@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Gregory P. Hatchett, Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: See next page

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