

September 2, 2010

Carol Bernstein  
Savannah District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1000 West Oglethorpe Avenue  
Savannah, GA 31401-3640

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

Dear Ms. Bernstein:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed NUREG -1947; "Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Combined Licenses (COLs) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4." 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 site in Burke County, GA. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) to include an analysis of relevant environmental issues. The DSEIS documents the NRC determination regarding the environmental impacts at the proposed site from the construction and operation of two new nuclear units. This 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> (the Public Electronic Reading Room) and directly from the NRC website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). In addition, the Burke County Library, 130 Highway 24 South, Waynesboro, GA has agreed to make the DSEIS 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 on the DSEIS at the Augusta Technical College, Waynesboro Campus Auditorium, 216 Hwy 24 South, Waynesboro, GA 30830 on Thursday, October 7, 2010. 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: (1) a presentation of the contents of the DSEIS and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the DSEIS report. Additionally, the meeting will be preceded by an open house session from 6 p.m. to 7 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 COL 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; (3) consultation with Federal, State, and Tribal 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.

Please provide any information or comments you may have on the DSEIS during the comment period, which ends on November 24, 2010. The NRC may consider additional comments after the comment period, 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, D.C. 20555-0001 or via e-mail to [Vogtle.COLAEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:Vogtle.COLAEIS@nrc.gov). Your comments will be addressed in the final SEIS.

C. Bernstein

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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 (EPA). If you have any questions regarding this matter, 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

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

A separate notice of filing of the DSEIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If you have any questions regarding this matter, 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  
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Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

Enclosure:  
As stated

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| DATE   | 08/ 26/10   | 08/27/10    | 08/25/10                | 09/02/10    |

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