

November 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Edwin M. Hackett, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: David B. Matthews, Director */RA/*
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 –
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION - ADVANCED SAFETY
EVALUATION WITHOUT OPEN ITEMS FOR CHAPTER 19,
APPENDIX 19.A “LOSS OF LARGE AREAS OF THE PLANT DUE TO
EXPLOSIONS OR FIRES (LOLA)”

By letter dated March 28, 2008 (ML081050133), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a combined license (COL) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4.

Based on our review of the application, the staff is providing the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) its Advanced Safety Evaluation (ASE), without open items for Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A “Loss of Large Areas of the Plant Due to Explosions or Fires (LOLA),” (ML103260024) and the Attachment A to Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A (ML101810029). Unless otherwise stated in the ASE, the staff’s review was based on Revision 2 of the application. The ASE is being provided to support a meeting of the subcommittee of the ACRS scheduled for December 2010. The ACRS Full Committee meeting will be held after the subcommittee.

For Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, the staff plans on focusing its presentation on the strategies intended to maintain or restore core cooling, containment and spent fuel cooling capabilities following a beyond-design basis event resulting in the loss of large areas of the plant due to explosions or fires.

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The staff concludes that the Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE does not contain any information exempt from public disclosure. The NRC will withhold the ASE from public disclosure for ten business days to allow SNC the opportunity to verify the staff's conclusion that the ASE contains no such exempt information. However, the Attachment A to Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE does contain security-related information. The NRC will withhold the Attachment A to Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE from public disclosure.

Therefore, the staff requests that the ACRS withhold the Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE from public disclosure until it has been released publicly in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.

The staff will inform the ACRS immediately if SNC requests that any of the information in the ASE be withheld from public disclosure.

Docket Nos. 52-025
52-026

The staff concludes that the Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE does not contain any information exempt from public disclosure. The NRC will withhold the ASE from public disclosure for ten business days to allow SNC the opportunity to verify the staff's conclusion that the ASE contains no such exempt information. However, the Attachment A to Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE does contain security-related information. The NRC will withhold the Attachment A to Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE from public disclosure.

Therefore, the staff requests that the ACRS withhold the Chapter 19, Appendix 19.A, ASE from public disclosure until it has been released publicly in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.

The staff will inform the ACRS immediately if SNC requests that any of the information in the ASE be withheld from public disclosure.

Docket Nos. 52-025
52-026

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