



*A Unit of the Technical
College System of Georgia*

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To The Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

On behalf of Augusta Technical College, a Georgia based two year technical college; we offer our support regarding the expansion of Plant Vogtle in Burke County, Georgia by the Southern Nuclear Company. The expansion of Plant Vogtle is key to the growth of the region because it will provide:

1. Employment opportunities to a part of the State that needs skilled workers and well-paying jobs. At peak construction, 3500 construction jobs will need to be filled and after completion, there will be 800 permanent jobs at the site in a vast array of levels from administrative to technical to security.
2. Permanent jobs will be a driver of the local economy, bringing with it small businesses and services that will benefit both the transient and permanent jobs that will be created at the site.
3. The expansion of Plant Vogtle opens up opportunities for innovations in training and for the industry to continue improving on its already existing high quality standards.
4. The expansion will drive students to our technical college to develop fundamentals in math, science and other technologies that would be applicable to Southern Nuclear's employment needs and helps create a more educated force in general.

Augusta Technical College has partnered with Southern Nuclear on several initiatives that include the following items:

1. Augusta Technical College has created an Energy Academy at our Burke County campus targeted at middle school students that works to generate interest in future energy careers. Many young people are unaware of the future job opportunities in energy fields and the academy works to engage those students to consider potential employment opportunities when making college decisions.

2. Augusta Technical College also hosted an Energy Camp on their main campus for children in middle school to engage them in the possibility of energy careers.
3. Augusta Technical College, in partnership with Southern Nuclear, has developed a two year associate degree program in Nuclear Energy Technology (NET). The NET program is a high-tech, two year associate degree program that provides an outstanding foundation for jobs in nuclear plant maintenance and non-licensed operations. This program will prepare students for positions at Plant Vogtle.
4. Augusta Technical College is currently hosting the training for newly hired Southern Nuclear operations instructors and licensed operator candidates on the main campus of the college.
5. The Industrial Technology Division at Augusta Tech currently partners with Plant Vogtle's Training Department on the Manufacturing Maintenance Fundamentals Technical Certificate of Credit program which is offered to employees in the specific skilled areas of journeymen, electricians and mechanics. Currently, twenty-three of the plant's employees are enrolled in this program. This partnership has been on-going for the past seven years.
6. Augusta Technical College is celebrating Careers in Energy Week in Georgia beginning the week of October 18th. Displays promoting careers in energy will be featured at all three campuses.

Augusta Technical College endorses the expansion of Southern Nuclear Company's efforts in Burke County. The impact on creating an educated workforce and the potential for additional business creation will greatly benefit the local economy of Burke County. Augusta Technical College will also benefit by providing training and educational opportunities for current and future students.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 706.771.4005.

Sincerely,

Terry D. Elam
President