



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

September 1, 2011

Mr. Joseph A. (Buzz) Miller
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
241 Ralph McGill Blvd.
BIN 10232
Atlanta, GA 30308-3374

**SUBJECT: SEMIANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN – VOGTLE
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4**

Dear Mr. Miller:

On August 11, 2011, the NRC staff completed its semiannual performance review of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. Our technical staff reviewed the results of inspections conducted from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only-Security Information" will include the results of security inspections that have been conducted at your facility and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent assessment period at VEGP Units 3 and 4 was within the Baseline Program column of the NRC's Construction Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being categorized at Severity Level IV or lower. Therefore, we plan to conduct construction reactor oversight process (cROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2012. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the coordination of resources well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are typically not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

The NRC has been developing a revised cROP assessment program. We will begin a yearlong pilot program of the proposed new and revised construction oversight processes, including the revised assessment program at your facility on January 1, 2012. As part of the new assessment process, we will transition to an annual assessment cycle also beginning on January 1, 2012. The NRC plans to conduct a semiannual performance review for the period July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Due to the limited ongoing construction activities and the transition to a calendar year assessment cycle, Region II/Center for Construction Inspection (CCI) does not plan to conduct a public meeting to discuss the assessment of construction activities until after the review for the period ending December 31, 2011. Following that review, we will conduct a public meeting in the vicinity of your facility to discuss our performance assessment results and to describe our new assessment program.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact David Ayres at (404) 997-4407 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Numbers:
ESP/LWA: 052-011
Unit 3: 052-025
Unit 4: 052-026
License Numbers: N/A

Enclosure: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4 Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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cc w/encl:

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 NON-SENSITIVE
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cc cont. (See next page)

SNC

4

cc cont.

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Letter to Buzz Miller from David A. Ayres dated September 1, 2011.

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ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4

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Vogle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4 Inspection/Activity Plan

Est. Date	Description	IMC
8/2011	Waterproof Membrane (WPM) URI Follow-up (completed)	2503
9/2011	Unit 4 Waterproofing Membrane Installation Inspection	2503
10/2011	CB&I Welding Program QA and ITAAC Inspection	2502
11/2011	Site QA Program Implementation Inspection	2504
12/2011	Shaw Welding Program QA and ITAAC Inspection (Module Assembly)	2502
1/2012	ITAAC Management Inspection	2504
2/2012	Site QA Program Implementation Inspection	2504
3/2012	CAP Implementation Inspection (pending licensee readiness notification)	2504

Note: Schedule subject to change based on licensing and construction activities