



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

September 1, 2011

Mr. Tom E. Tynan
Vice President - Vogtle
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
7821 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000424/2011006, AND
05000425/2011006)**

Dear Mr. Tynan:

On August 9, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at Vogtle Units 1 and 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. In addition to ROP baseline inspection activities, we also plan on conducting Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/177 "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems," and Initial Operator License Examinations.

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed TI-183,

“Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event,” and TI-184, “Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)” at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, “Mitigating Strategies,” to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC’s Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, “Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident.” The Commission is currently reviewing the Task Force’s recommendations to determine whether additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter will be 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 Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (404) 997-4548 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James Hickey, Acting Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-424, 50-425
License Nos.: NPF-68, NPF-81

Enclosure: Vogtle Inspection/Activity Plan (09/01/2011 – 12/31/2012)

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

“Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event,” and TI-184, “Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)” at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, “Mitigating Strategies,” to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC’s Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, “Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident.” The Commission is currently reviewing the Task Force’s recommendations to determine whether additional actions may be warranted.

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cc w/encl: (See page 3)

X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE X NON-SENSITIVE
 ADAMS: X Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML112440286 X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:RDP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP				
SIGNATURE	GSC /RA/	JAH /RA/	TXL /RA/				
NAME	GCroon	JHickey	TLighty				
DATE	08/28/2011	08/26/2011	08/25/2011				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc w/encl:

S. Kuczynski
Chairman, President and CEO
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Jeffrey T. Gasser
Chief Nuclear Officer
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

N. J. Stringfellow
Licensing Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Paula Marino
Vice President
Engineering
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

L. Mike Stinson
Vice President
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Dennis R. Madison
Vice President
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

J. L. Pemberton
SVP & General Counsel-Ops & SNC
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

T. E. Tynan
Site Vice President
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Hickox, T. Mark
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

M. J. Ajluni
Nuclear Licensing Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

B. D. McKinney, Jr.
Regulatory Response Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

T. D. Honeycutt
Regulatory Response Supervisor
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

L. P. Hill
Licensing Supervisor
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. L. Gladney
Licensing Engineer
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

L. L. Crumpton
Administrative Assistant, Sr.
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

S. C. Swanson
Site Support Manager
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Bob Masse
Resident Manager
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Arthur H. Domby, Esq.
Troutman Sanders
Electronic Mail Distribution

(cc w/encl continued next page)

(cc w/encl continued)

Sandra Threatt, Manager
Nuclear Response and Emergency
Environmental Surveillance
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Department of Health and Environmental
Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

Division of Radiological Health
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1532

Richard Haynes
Director, Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
S.C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Lee Foley
Manager of Contracts Generation
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Mark Williams
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

F. Allen Barnes
Director
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Cynthia A. Sanders
Radioactive Materials Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Electronic Mail Distribution

James A. Capp
Program Coordination Branch Chief
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

James C. Hardeman
Environmental Radiation Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Al Frazier
Emergency Response and Radiation
Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Mr. Steven M. Jackson
Senior Engineer - Power Supply
Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia
Electronic Mail Distribution

Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
Electronic Mail Distribution

Office of the Attorney General
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Director
Consumers' Utility Counsel Division
Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs
2 M. L. King, Jr. Drive
Plaza Level East; Suite 356
Atlanta, GA 30334-4600

Amy Whaley
Engineer
Nuclear Generation Development and
Construction
Electronic Mail Distribution

SNC

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Letter to Tom E. Tynan from James Hickey dated September 1, 2011

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
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Distribution w/encl:

C. Evans, RII

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RidsNrrPMVogtle Resource

ROP Assessment

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)