

Communication Protocols for NRC Interactions with Southern Nuclear Operating Company/Vogtle Electric Generating Plant on the NRC/RES Level 3 PRA Project

- Period covered: May 2012 until final publication of NUREG report

Transmittal of information:

- Amir Afzali (SNC) and Alan Kuritzky (NRC) will be informed of all transmitted documents. The NRC will track all documents received from SNC/Vogtle.
- Design or operational information provided by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC)/Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle) will not be docketed, since this information will not be used to support a licensing action. As such, this information will not be available (to NRC) for direct referencing in project documents that are made publicly available. However, such information may be directly referenced in non-public documents (e.g., interim project letter reports) or indirectly referred to in publicly available documents via statements such as “This assumption is based on supporting information provided by the licensee regarding current operating practices at the facility.”
- Information transmitted to the NRC that SNC/Vogtle believes should be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 2, Section 2.390, should be accompanied by an affidavit stating the basis for withholding.
- In the event of a FOIA request, the NRC will follow the process delineated in NRC Management Directive (MD) 3.1, including a screening of all information covered by the FOIA request. If the screening identifies information not stamped proprietary but which the NRC believes may contain confidential business or proprietary information, the NRC will follow the process specified in Section II.F.8 of the handbook for MD 3.1. Per MD 3.1 handbook Section II.F.8, the NRC will provide SNC/Vogtle with a list of any information that the NRC identifies as potentially containing confidential business or proprietary information. SNC/Vogtle will review this information and make a determination as to whether any of the information should be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390. For any such information, SNC/Vogtle will submit an affidavit requesting the specific information to be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390 and stating the basis for withholding. The NRC will review the SNC/Vogtle request and the information in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390 and, on the basis of the statements in the affidavit, determine whether the specific information requested to be withheld pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390 should be withheld from public disclosure. Note, the NRC and SNC/Vogtle reviews of potentially releasable information will need to comport with the applicable FOIA time limits.
- It is not anticipated that safeguards information will need to be transmitted, but if it should, its transmission will be governed by existing NRC requirements for such information.
- All written communications originating from NRC will be directed to Mark Ajluni (SNC Corporate Licensing), with copies to the NRR Project Manager (Patrick Boyle) and the Senior Resident Inspector (Mike Cain).
- All written communications originating from SNC/Vogtle will be directed to Alan Kuritzky (NRC/RES), with copies to the NRR Project Manager (Patrick Boyle) and the Senior Resident Inspector (Mike Cain).

- All project documents intended for public release, including the draft NUREG report documenting all results, will be transmitted to SNC prior to public issuance for a factual review and to confirm that they do not contain confidential business or proprietary information.
- All publications or presentations by SNC related to the Level 3 PRA project will be provided to the NRC for review and approval prior to release.

Other communications:

- The NRC and SNC/Vogtle will engage in the following types of communications:
 1. Routine communications (e.g., phone calls and e-mail messages) informational in nature, to support the Level 3 PRA project. These types of communications will generally involve either administrative details or factual information about the plant or its PRA. All such communications will be documented and tracked by the NRC. The NRR Project Manager (Patrick Boyle) will be informed of these communications.
 2. Interface meetings between NRC and SNC/Vogtle staff involving the exchange of information having no direct, substantive connection to a specific NRC regulatory decision or action. These meetings will be coordinated with the NRR Project Manager.
 3. Periodic public (open) meetings during the duration of the Level 3 PRA project to provide external stakeholders a general status update on the progress of the project. These meetings will be noticed and arranged in coordination with the NRR Project Manager and SNC/Vogtle.
- NRC/RES has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) (ADAMS Accession No. ML070740114) that includes an addendum on cooperative nuclear safety research in the area of PRA (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML071170164 and ML101270008). There may be opportunities to engage EPRI and leverage ongoing EPRI activities to support the Level 3 PRA project. Any information obtained from or shared with EPRI under the RES-EPRI MOU will be governed by the stipulations of the MOU.
- For the purposes of the Level 3 PRA project, external stakeholders, such as representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, vendors, and other licensees, are considered members of the public and, as such, their participation in the project will, in general, be limited to public meetings. However, the NRC anticipates performing peer reviews for the project consistent with the ASME/ANS PRA standards. External stakeholders may participate in these peer reviews, but will be subject to certain non-disclosure requirements.