



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

March 4, 2013

Mr. B. L. Ivey
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 1295
Bin B022
Birmingham, AL 35201

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
PLANT UNITS 3 & 4 (REPORT 05200025/2012001 AND 05200026/2012001)**

Dear Mr. Ivey:

On February 11, 2013, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 & 4. The NRC reviewed inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and the NRC's plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, VEGP Units 3 & 4 were being constructed in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at VEGP Units 3 & 4 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Construction Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct Construction Reactor Oversight Process baseline inspections at your facility. Based on this assessment, the NRC plans to include design control and receipt inspection as focus areas during upcoming baseline inspections.

This letter also summarizes the NRC's assessment of the corrective action program (CAP) used to identify and correct issues associated with the construction of VEGP Units 3 & 4. Since the beginning of safety related construction, the NRC has inspected multiple aspects of the CAPs in use at VEGP Units 3 & 4 during various inspections. These inspections include several quality assurance and technical team inspections, team inspections focused on the CAP, and inspections performed by the resident inspectors including daily CAP reviews and detailed reviews of a sample of issues entered into the CAP.

During these inspections, the NRC evaluated the adequacy of the CAP documents and the effectiveness of their implementation. These inspections included a review and assessment of the Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) CAP and the CAPs established by those contractors, entities, or agents to whom SNC delegated the engineering, procurement, and construction of VEGP Units 3 & 4 (Westinghouse Electric Company and CB&I – formerly Shaw).

Based on these inspections, the NRC determined that SNC has developed and implemented an adequate CAP for use during the performance of construction activities authorized by the combined license. This conclusion is based on the criteria established in Section 6.03 of Inspection Manual Chapter 2505P, "Periodic Assessment of Construction Inspection Program Results, Revision 1 – Pilot." Specifically, the inspectors did not identify: any findings related to the adequacy of procedures intended to implement the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B, Criterion XVI; any findings with more than very low safety significance related to the CAP; or a substantive cross-cutting aspect related to the CAP. Therefore, the staff is now authorized to issue non-cited violations in lieu of severity level IV violations in accordance with Section 2.3.2 of the NRC Enforcement Policy.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed are tentative and may be revised based on construction activities at the site. 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 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) 997-4540 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA by George Khouri Acting for/

Michael E. Ernstes, Chief
Construction Project Branch 4
Division of Construction Projects

Docket Nos.: 52-00011, 52-00025, 52-00026
License Nos.: NPF-91, NPF-92

Enclosure:
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 & 4 Inspection Plan

cc w/encl.: (See next page)

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PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE
 ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML13063A306 SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII: DCP	RII: DCP					
SIGNATURE	JXK1	GJK3					
NAME	J. Kent	G. Khouri					
DATE	02/28/2013	02/28/2013					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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Letter to B. L. Ivey from Michael E. Ernstes, dated March 4, 2013

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
PLANT UNITS 3 & 4 (REPORT 05200025/2012001 AND 05200026/2012001)

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Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 & 4 Inspection Plan

Programmatic Inspections (IMC 2504)	
Est. Date	Description
1Q 2013	Annual CAP inspection
2Q 2013	QA semiannual implementation - construction

ITAAC Inspections (IMC 2503)	
Est. Date	Description
2013	<p>The majority of ITAAC related inspections, in 2013, are expected to be associated with the following construction and fabrication activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nuclear island construction 2. Containment vessel fabrication 3. Structural and mechanical module fabrication <p>The NRC staff will also inspect miscellaneous ITAAC and Design Acceptance Criteria activities (e.g. Protection and Safety Monitoring System and Human Factors Engineering development, type tests, and other ITAAC related work on site and at vendor facilities).</p>
1Q-2Q 2013	<p>Rebar Work Associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nuclear island • Unit 3 containment vessel • CR-10
1Q 2013	Nuclear island basemat pour
1Q-3Q 2013	Unit 4 waterproofing membrane installation
1Q-3Q 2013	Submodule fabrication in the Modular Assembly Building
1Q-3Q 2013	Unit 3 & 4 containmnet vessel fabrication
2Q-3Q 2013	Unit 3 reactor pressure vessel on-site inspection

Note: Inspection schedule is subject to change based on licensing and construction activities.