



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

September 3, 2013

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 (NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 05200025/2013006 AND 05200026/2013006)

Dear Mr. Ivey:

On August 12, 2013, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The NRC reviewed the most recent inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2013, through June 30, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined the performance at VEGP Units 3 and 4 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Construction Reactor Oversight Process (cROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct cROP baseline inspections at your facility. Design control and receipt inspection were focus areas during this assessment period. No significant concerns were identified in these areas. The NRC will continue to monitor and inspect VEGP's corrective actions and initiatives addressing these focus areas.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. Routine inspections performed by construction resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed are tentative and may be revised based on construction activities occurring 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).

B. Ivey

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Please contact me at (404) 997-4540 with any questions you have regarding this letter or inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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

Enclosure:
Vogle Inspection Plan

cc w/encl.: (See next page)

B. Ivey

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PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE
ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML13246A111 SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII: DCP	RII: DCP						
SIGNATURE	TCS	JXK						
NAME	T. Steadham	J. Kent						
DATE	08/26/2013	08/26/2013						
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: G:\CCI\DCP\CPB4PROJECT VOGTLE\INSPECTION REPORTS\INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORTS\2013\2013-006\MID-CYCLE_LETTER.DOCX

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Letter to B.L. Ivey from Michael E. Ernstes, dated September 3, 2013

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PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 (NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 05200025/2013006
AND 05200026/2013006)

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PUBLIC

Vogle Inspection Plan

Programmatic Inspections (IMC 2504)	
Est. Date	Description
Oct 7, 2013	Construction QA program implementation - Periodic team inspection
ITAAC Inspections (IMC 2503)	
Est. Date	Description
3Q-4Q 2013	<p>The majority of Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) related inspections are expected to be associated with the following construction and fabrication activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Units 3 & 4 containment vessel fabrication, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding of vertical plates • Welding of major vessel sections • Welding procedures and qualifications • Nondestructive examinations (NDE) (such as x-ray) • NDE procedures and qualifications 2. Units 3 & 4 nuclear island construction, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auxiliary building walls • Reinforcing steel • Embed plates • Floor slabs • Reinforcement of the containment vessel bottom head • Shield building rebar and basemat • Shield building walls • Concrete placement 3. Module fabrication, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding and NDE • Welding and NDE procedures and qualifications • Material controls
4Q 2013	Reactor Pressure Vessel Receipt Inspection

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