

February 19, 2014

Mr. B. L. Ivey, Vice President
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway, B022
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NO OBJECTION FOR PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT REQUEST
(PAR 13-039), "COATING THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY," FOR THE VOGTLE
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated January 21, 2014, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 13-039 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML14021A086) notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that absent NRC objection, and pending the outcome of the NRC staff's detailed technical review of Licensing Amendment Request (LAR) 13-039, SNC will proceed with the setting of the first ring of the lower containment vessel. In a letter dated February 13, 2014, the licensee provided supplemental information to clarify the relationship between the change proposed in LAR 13-039 and the construction activity for which a no objection letter is sought.

As required by License Condition 2.D.(1), the NRC staff has received the LAR (LAR 13-039) referenced in PAR 13-039. The staff evaluated the license amendment documentation supporting LAR 13-039 and has determined that there is sufficient information to accept LAR 13-039 for review (ADAMS Accession Number ML13345A321).

The NRC staff has determined that PAR 13-039 contained a sufficient description of the no significant hazards consideration determination, the categorical exclusion from environmental review, and of the impact of the proposed plant change on associated Inspections, Tests, Analyses and Acceptance Criteria. In addition, the NRC staff has reviewed the scope of PAR 13-039 and finds that it is consistent with the changes from the current licensing basis as requested in LAR 13-039. Therefore, the NRC staff has no objection to SNC proceeding with the setting of the first ring of the lower containment vessel, as identified in PAR 13-039, pending the outcome of the NRC staff's detailed technical review of LAR 13-039. SNC acknowledges that if LAR 13-039 is denied, SNC will return the plant to its current licensing basis.

B. Ivey

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Senior Project Manager, David H. Jaffe, at 301-415-1439 or via e-mail at David.Jaffe@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Frank M. Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-025

cc: See next page

B. Ivey

- 2 -

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Senior Project Manager, David H. Jaffe, at 301-415-1439 or via e-mail at David.Jaffe@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Frank M. Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-025

cc: See next page

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NRO-002

OFFICE	NRO/DNRL/LB4:PM	NRO/DNRL/LB4:LA	NRO:DNRL/DCIP:ROE
NAME	RJoshi/DJaffe*	RButler*	MBrown*
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NAME	LBurkhart	FAkstulewicz	
DATE	02/18/14	02/19/14	

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 02/03/2014)

cc:

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

Resident Manager
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant
7821 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Southern Nuclear Op. Co.
Document Control Coordinator
42 Inverness Center parkway
Attn: B236
Birmingham, AL 35242

Anne F. Appleby
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
Tucker, GA 30084

County Commissioner
Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. James C. Hardeman
Environmental Radiation Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
4220 International Pkwy, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

B. L. Ivey
VP, Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway, B022
Birmingham, AL 35242

Rita Kilpatrick
250 Arizona Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30307

Stephen E. Kuczynski
Chairman, President and CEO
Southern Nuclear
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Mr. Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mr. Joseph A. (Buzz) Miller
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
241 Ralph McGill Blvd.
BIN 10240
Atlanta, GA 30308-3374

Resident Inspector
Plant Vogtle 3&4
7825 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Elaine Sikes
Burke County Library
130 Highway 24 South
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Jerry Smith
Commissioner
District 8
Augusta-Richmond County Commission
1332 Brown Road
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Gene Stilp
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

George B. Taylor, Jr.
2100 East Exchange Pl
Atlanta, GA 30084-5336

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
agbaker@southernco.com (Ann Baker)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
bhwhittle@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
blivey@southernco.com (Pete Ivey)
bob.masse@opc.com (Resident Manager)
bwwaites@southernco.com (Brandon Waites)
chmahan@southernco.com (Howard Mahan)
cmeadors@southernco.com (Brian Meadors)
collinlj@westinghouse.com (Leslie Collins)
courtney@georgiawand.org (Courtney Hanson)
couturgf@westinghouse.com (Gerald Couture)
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)
csguinn@southernco.com (Candace Guinn)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)
danawill@southernco.com (Dana Williams)
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
david.siefken@hq.doe.gov (David Siefken)
delongra@westinghouse.com (Rich DeLong)
dgbost@southernco.com (Danny Bost)
dlfulton@southernco.com (Dale Fulton)
drculver@southernco.com (Randy Culver)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
edavis@pegasusgroup.us (Ed David)
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)
G2NDRMDC@southernco.com (SNC Document Control)
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)
jamiller@southernco.com (Buzz Miller)
jbtomase@southernco.com (Janice Tomasello)
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)
jlhall@southernco.com (Jennifer Hall)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
jranalli@meagpower.org (Jerry Ranalli)
jrjohnso@southernco.com (Randy Johnson)
jtgasser@southernco.com (Jeff Gasser)
karen.patterson@ttnus.com (Karen Patterson)
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)
Katherine.Janik@Hq.Doe.Gov (Katherine Janik)
kim.haynes@opc.com (Kim Haynes)
kmseiber@southernco.com (Kristin Seibert)

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
ldperry@southernco.com (Leigh D. Perry)
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)
markus.popa@hq.doe.gov (Markus Popa)
matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)
mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)
mdrauckh@southernco.com (Mark Rauckhorst)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
Melissa.Smith@Hq.Doe.Gov (Melissa Smith)
mike.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
nlhender@southernco.com (Nancy Henderson)
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)
randall@nexusamllc.com (Randall Li)
rhenry@ap.org (Ray Henry)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
russpa@westinghouse.com (Paul Russ)
rwink@ameren.com (Roger Wink)
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)
skauffman@mpr.com (Storm Kauffman)
skuczyns@southernco.com (Steve Kuczynski)
sroetger@psc.state.ga.us (Steve Roetger)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
taterrel@southernco.com (Todd Terrell)
tlubnow@mpr.com (Tom Lubnow)
Tom.Bilik@nrc.gov (Thomas Bilik)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)
wasparkm@southernco.com (Wesley A. Sparkman)
wayne.marquino@ge.com (Wayne Marquino)
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)