



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001
November 8, 2017

Mr. James J. Hutto
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 1295, Bin 038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING STATUS REPORTS (EPID L-LRO-2017-0008)

Dear Mr. Hutto:

By letters dated March 30, 2017, the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. submitted decommissioning funding status reports to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in accordance with 10 CFR 50.75(f)(1), for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, and Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed the submittal and has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. On November 6, 2017, Mr. Bates of your staff agreed that the response to these questions within 45 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Orenak".

Michael Orenak, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch, II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-321, 30-366, 50-348,
50-364, 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosure:
Request for Additional Information

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
2017 DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING STATUS REPORTS
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-424, 50-425, 50-321, 50-366, 50-348, and 50-364

By letters dated March 30, 2017, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted decommissioning funding status (DFS) reports to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in accordance with 10 CFR 50.75(f)(1), for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 1 and 2, Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), Units 1 and 2, and Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Units 1 and 2 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML17089A512, ML17089A523, and ML17089A510, respectively). The NRC staff reviewed the submittals and needs the following additional information to complete its reviews.

In the submittals, SNC reported minimum decommissioning fund estimates, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.75(b) and (c), in 2016 dollars, of \$445,550,000, \$582,062,000, and \$421,872,000, for each unit at VEGP, HNP, and FNP, respectively. The NRC staff calculated minimum decommissioning fund estimates that were higher than SNC's reported calculations by \$38.60 million, \$32.62 million, and \$36.55 million for each unit at VEGP, HNP, and FNP, respectively.

In performing its minimum formula calculations, the NRC staff applied low level waste (LLW) burial (Bx) escalation factors of 12.471, 13.132, and 12.471, for VEGP, HNP, and FNP, respectively. Because the SNC nuclear fleet is located in states that are members of the Southeast Compact, the NRC staff selected Bx escalation factors from the column entitled, "Bx Values for Generators Located in the Unaffiliated States and those Located in Compact-Affiliated States having no Disposal Facility," in NUREG-1307, Revision 16, "Report on Waste Burial Charges - Report on Waste Burial Charges: Changes in Decommissioning Waste Disposal Costs at Low-Level Waste Burial Facilities Final Report," Table 2-1 (page 6), "Values of Bx as a Function of LLW Burial Site and Year" (ADAMS Accession No. ML17060A362).

Request for Additional Information 1

For VEGP, HNP, and FNP, please identify the Bx escalation factor used to calculate the minimum formula amount reported in the March 30, 2017, submittals. Provide a justification for the chosen Bx escalation factor and the source of information and/or assumptions used to derive it. In particular, please provide calculations illustrating the derivation of the reported minimum formula amounts. If the use of a revised Bx escalation factor is deemed necessary, please resubmit the DFS reports for the respective plants.

Enclosure

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING STATUS REPORTS (EPID L-LRO-2017-0008) DATED NOVEMBER 8, 2017

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*via memo

OFFICE	DORL/LPL2-1/PM	DORL/LPL2-1/LA	DLP/PFPB/BC*	DORL/LPL2-1/BC	DORL/LPL2-1/PM
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