

September 15, 1997

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. C. K. McCoy
Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-424/97-99 AND 50-425/97-99)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

The NRC Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) has been completed for your Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) for the period of January 28, 1996 through August 2, 1997. The results of the evaluation are documented in the enclosed SALP report and will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the VEGP site on September 24, 1997, at 10:30 a.m.

The level of safety performance at VEGP was determined to be superior in all SALP functional areas. This high level of performance resulted from the strong focus and teamwork of all those associated with the operation of the facility. Senior managers set high standards of safety performance, were actively involved in site activities, and made conservative decisions relative to operation of the facility.

Self-assessment, quality verification, and associated corrective action programs were effective in ensuring the high standards of performance were met. Management and worker attention to proper implementation of programs, such as containment closeouts and configuration control of plant equipment are continuing challenges.

The challenges noted during the previous SALP period associated with the Plant Support area were addressed. The chemistry and emergency preparedness programs performed at high levels. The security and radiological programs also attained a high level of performance.

As a result of your superior level of safety performance, your next SALP period duration will be 24 months. This is conditional upon continued superior performance. In addition, your facility will receive an appropriate level of reduced NRC inspection that is reflective of your performance. Note that inspection hours may already have been reduced in the areas that received a Category 1 rating in earlier SALP cycles.

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In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. No reply to this letter is required; however, should you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by
Luis A. Reyes)

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425
License Nos. NPF-68, NPF-81

Enclosure: SALP Report

cc w/encl:
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cc w/encl cont'd: (See Page 3)

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cc w/encl: Continued
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bcc w/encl: (See Page 3)

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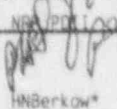

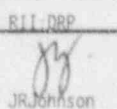
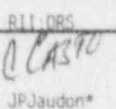

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Federal Emergency Management Agency
 ATTN: Mr. William McSwain, Chief
 Technical Hazards Branch
 3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
 Chamblee, GA 30341

* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

for below

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