

May 24, 2000

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02,
"LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" -
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TAC NOS. MA5859 AND MA5860)

Dear Mr. Beasley:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses to this generic letter relating to implementation of the requested actions.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) Plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989.
- (2) Plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989.

- (3) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989.
- (4) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989.

In response to GL 99-02, you provided a letter September 20, 1999, for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. This submittal indicated that yours are Group 1 plants. The staff has reviewed your response and has concluded that all requested information has been provided; therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your facilities. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ramin R. Assa at 301-415-1391.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ramin Assa, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

cc: See next page

May 24, 2000

- (3) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989.
- (4) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989.

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Ramin Assa, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

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Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

Mr. J. A. Bailey
Manager, Licensing
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Mr. J. Gasser
General Manager, Vogtle Electric
Generating Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1600
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Office of Planning and Budget
Room 615B
270 Washington Street, SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mr. J. D. Woodard
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Steven M. Jackson
Senior Engineer - Power Supply
Municipal Electric Authority
of Georgia
1470 Riveredge Parkway, NW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30328-4684

Harold Reheis, Director
Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, SE. Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Attorney General
Law Department
132 Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mr. R. D. Barker
Program Manager
Fossil & Nuclear Operations
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
P. O. Box 1349
Tucker, Georgia 30085-1349

Charles A. Patrizia, Esquire
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
10th Floor
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004-9500

Arthur H. Domby, Esquire
Troutman Sanders
NationsBank Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, NE.
Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216

Resident Inspector
Vogtle Plant
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

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