



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

September 2, 2014

Mr. Dennis Madison
Vice President - Vogtle
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
7821 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000424/2014006 AND 05000425/2014006)

Dear Mr.: Madison

On August 12, 2014, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. 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 that overall, Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 was operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Vogtle Unit 1 and Unit 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

On August 6, 2014, the NRC issued Integrated Inspection Report 05000424,425/2014003 (ML14218A669) which described a finding of low-to-moderate safety significance (White), and associated Notice of Violation, in the Emergency Preparedness cornerstone of the ROP. The finding involved the licensee's failure to follow and maintain the effectiveness of emergency plans that meet 10 CFR 50.47(b)(4). As communicated in the integrated inspection report, the NRC exercised enforcement discretion for this issue because the finding met the criteria specified in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," for treatment as an "old design issue." Therefore, in accordance with IMC 0305, this issue did not aggregate in the Action Matrix with other performance indicators and inspection findings. Notwithstanding the exercise of enforcement discretion, IMC 0305 specifies the need for an inspection in accordance with inspection procedure (IP) 95001 "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," even if the White finding meets the criteria for treatment as an "old design issue." Therefore, in addition to the ROP baseline

inspections, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the root cause and corrective actions associated with the White finding. The NRC requests that your staff provide notification of your readiness for the NRC to conduct the supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the White finding.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2015. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. 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. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate licensee plans for complying with the Orders, as described in site-specific submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for the first unit at each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

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).

D. Madison

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Please contact me at (404) 997-4436 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Franke, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Vogtle Inspection/Activity Plan
(09/01/2014 – 12/31/2015)

cc Distribution via ListServ

D. Madison

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D. Madison

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Letter to D. Madison from Frank Ehrhardt dated September 2, 2014

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
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05000425/2014006)

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Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)

ROP Reports

ROP Assessment

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
2	09/22/2014	09/26/2014	ISI - UNIT 2 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
2	09/22/2014	09/26/2014	SGISI - UNIT 2 SG IN-SERVICE INSPECTION IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
1, 2	03/16/2015	03/20/2015	PI&R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	5
1, 2	03/30/2015	04/03/2015	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1, 2	05/18/2015	05/22/2015	EP - EP PROGRAM INSPECTION IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	2
1, 2	05/18/2015	05/22/2015	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1, 2	05/18/2015	05/22/2015	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2	05/18/2015	05/22/2015	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1, 2	05/18/2015	05/22/2015	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1, 2	07/13/2015	07/17/2015	TFPI - TRIENNIEL FIRE PROTECTION INSP IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	4
1, 2	07/27/2015	07/31/2015	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
1, 2	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	OL RQ - REQUAL INSP IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	2
1, 2	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	RP - RP PUBLIC RAD SAFETY BASELINE IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	2
1, 2	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1, 2	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1, 2	09/21/2015	09/25/2015	RP - RAD HAZARDS ANALYSIS AND TRANSPORTATION IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	2
1, 2	09/21/2015	09/25/2015	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1, 2	09/21/2015	09/25/2015	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1	09/28/2015	10/02/2015	ISI - UNIT 1 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
1	10/05/2015	10/09/2015	SGISI - UNIT 1 SG IN-SERVICE INSPECTION IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1