

October 18, 2005

APPLICANT: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

PROJECT: Pre-Application for an Early Site Permit

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2005, CATEGORY 1 MEETING WITH  
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN'S  
PLANS FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT AT THE VOGTLE SITE

On September 8, 2005, a public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and representatives of Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. The purpose of the meeting was for SNC to share with the NRC its future plans for a early site permit (ESP) at the Vogtle site in Waynesboro, GA. A list of meeting attendees is included as Attachment 2. Attachments 3-6 contains the NRC and SNC meeting handouts which can be accessed through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). This system provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The handouts mentioned above may be accessed through the ADAMS system under Accession No. ML052570328. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the handouts located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737 or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov). A summary of the meeting is included below.

SNC provided the NRC staff with a presentation on how it plans to pursue an ESP at the Vogtle site (Attachment 3). During the presentation, SNC said that it is planning to submit an application for an ESP on August 15, 2006. To support a more efficient and timely review, SNC outlined some of the key review areas of concern from the current three ESP reviews, and provided the NRC with how it plans to address these issues. With regards to the technical review, SNC said that it will limit the ESP to two reactor technologies (ESBWR, AP1000) and will address each individually. SNC also said, that having reviewed RAIs for the current three ESPs, it will provide more detail as appropriate, specifically towards seismology, hydrology, and meteorology. With regards to the environmental review, SNC said that it will address all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) issues and specific reactor impacts in the ESP application and the environmental report. SNC stated that the environmental report will also contain additional details where appropriate.

SNC provided the staff with details on key issues and on where it plans to differ in its submittal from the current applicants. SNC is planning to submit a complete and integrated emergency plan which will utilize the existing units' emergency plan as the basis. SNC said that this plan will contain inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) for information that is not available at the ESP stage. SNC also said that it will be implementing both Regulatory Guide 1.165 and the ASCE 43-05 performance-based methodology to determine the safe shutdown earthquake for the ESP site. SNC provided the staff with information regarding its quality assurance (QA) plan and said that once it was finished that it would send a copy to the NRC staff for review.

During the meeting, SNC presented its plans for submitting a combined operating license

(COL) application. SNC said that it plans to submit a COL application sometime during March 2008 which would occur prior to ESP issuance. These plans generated a significant amount of discussion between SNC and the NRC staff due to the complexity of SNC's proposal. SNC said that in its COL application, it will reference the ESP application and once the ESP is issued, the COL will be supplemented by referencing the ESP.

The NRC staff provided SNC with a presentation on lessons learned during the current ESP reviews (Attachment 4). The staff provided SNC with its concerns regarding application content, application format, pre-application guidance, and external interfaces. SNC said that it will address all lessons learned prior to submitting an application for an ESP.

As part of the pre-application kickoff meeting, Paul Prescott of the NRC, Quality and Maintenance Section, Division of Inspection Program Management conducted the ESP pre-application quality assurance controls meeting (Attachment 6). The purpose of this meeting was to describe the process used to review quality assurance measures related to an ESP application and provide SNC with an opportunity to discuss the quality assurance review process and respond to any questions.

Members of the public were in attendance but did not make public comments.

Please direct any inquiries concerning this meeting to Christian Araguas at 301-415-3637, or [cja2@nrc.gov](mailto:cja2@nrc.gov).

/RA/

Christian Araguas, Project Manager  
New Reactors Section  
New, Research and Test Reactors Programs  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 737

Attachments: 1. List of Attendees  
2. Agenda for Southern Pre-Application Meeting on 9/8/05 (ML052560049)  
3. SNC Early Site Permit Meeting Slides Handout for Pre-Application (ML052560052)  
4. NRC Early Site Permit Lessons Learned Slides Handout for Southern Pre-Application Meeting (ML052560055)  
5. NRC Early Site Permit List of Lessons Learned Handout for Southern Pre-Application Meeting (ML052560058)  
6. NRC Early site Permit Quality Assurance Controls Meeting Slides (IP35002) (ML052560062)

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**Meeting With the Southern Nuclear Operating Company to Discuss Southern's  
Plans for an Early Site Permit at the Vogtle Site**

**Thursday, September 8, 2005  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**NRC Headquarters Conference Room O-8B4**

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