

October 6, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: M. Christopher Nolan, Branch Chief  
New Reactor Environmental Projects Branch  
Division of New Reactor Licencing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Mark Notich, Project Manager */RA/*  
New Reactor Environmental Projects Branch  
Division of New Reactor Licencing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT  
REVIEW (TAC NO. MD3010)

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, October 19, 2006  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Augusta Technical College  
Waynesboro Campus Auditorium  
216 Hwy 24 South  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

PURPOSE: To conduct a transcribed public meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to provide their comments on what environmental issues the NRC should consider during its review of the early site permit (ESP) application for the Vogtle ESP site. This meeting will be conducted as part of the scoping process outlined in 10 CFR Part 51 to support development of an environmental impact statement in support of the application. See the enclosed agenda and *Federal Register* Notice (71-58882).

CONTACTS: Mark Notich, NRR/DNRL  
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VOGTLE\_EIS@nrc.gov

Cristina Guerrero, NRR/DNRL  
(301) 415-2981  
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The meeting will be preceded by an informal "open house" beginning at 5:00 p.m., for those who wish to attend. The "open house" will provide members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally and "one-on-one" with members of the NRC staff.

Members of the public may register to present oral comments at this meeting by contacting Cristina Guerrero (800) 368-5642, ext 2981, or by email to VOGTLE\_EIS@nrc.gov by October 12, 2006. Those who wish to make comments may also register at the Waynesboro Campus Auditorium site within 15 minutes of the start of the meeting. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. If special equipment or accommodations are needed by those attending the public meeting, the need should be brought to Ms. Guerrero's attention no later than October 12, 2006, to provide the NRC staff adequate notice to determine whether the request can be accommodated.

CATEGORY 3:\* This is a Category 3 Meeting. The public is invited to participate in this meeting by providing comments and asking questions throughout the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS:	<u>NRC</u> F. Cameron, OGC C. Nolan, NRR M. Notich, NRR	<u>Members of the Public Who Register to Speak</u>
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Project No. 737

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. *Federal Register* Notice (ML062760263)

\* Commission's Policy Statement on "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings" (67 FR 36920), May 28, 2002

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PARTICIPANTS: NRC Members of the Public Who Register to Speak  
F. Cameron, OGC  
C. Nolan, NRR  
M. Notich, NRR

Project No. 737

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. *Federal Register* Notice (ML062760263)

DISTRIBUTION: See next page

Accession Nos.:

Meeting Notice + Agenda: ML062760263

FRN: ML062610238

Package: ML062790050

OFFICE	LA:DNRL:NEPB	GS:DNRL:NEPB	PM:DNRL:NAPB	PM:DNRL:NEPB	BC:DNRL:NEPB
NAME	M. Viera	C. Guerrero	C. Araguas	M. Notich	C. Nolan
DATE	10/06/06	10/06/06	10/06/06	10/06/06	10/06/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

\* Commission's Policy Statement on "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings" (67 FR 36920), May 28, 2002

Memo to Chris Nolan from Mark Notich, dated October 6, 2006

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING  
PROCESS FOR THE VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT REVIEW (TAC NO.  
MD3010)

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C. Nolan

C. Araguas

J. Wilson

C. Guerrero

T. Kenyon

J. Davis

S. Burnell

K. Clark, RII

G. McCoy, SRI

B. Anderson, RI

M. Sackschewsky (PNNL)

K. Leigh (PNNL)

OCA

OPA

NEPB

**AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR  
VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- I. Welcome and purpose of meeting - 5 minutes (F. Cameron)
- II. Overview of early site permit process - 10 minutes (C. Nolan)
- III. Overview of environmental review process - 15 minutes (M. Notich)
- IV. Public comments - 2 ½ hours (F. Cameron)
- V. Closing/availability of transcripts, etc. (F. Cameron, M. C. Nolan)

Note - The NRC staff will host informal discussions two hours prior to the meeting. No comments on the scope of the environmental review will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting (see agenda, above) or in writing, as described in the *Federal Register* notice.

Enclosure 1

Enclosure 2:

*Federal Register* Notice -  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Vogtle ESP Site; Notice  
of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct  
Scoping Process

ML062610238

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 52-011]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Vogtle **ESP** Site; Notice  
of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct  
Scoping Process

Southern Nuclear Operating Corporation (SNC) has submitted an application for an early site permit (**ESP**) for its Vogtle **ESP** site, located on the west bank of the Savannah River in eastern Burke County, in east-central Georgia. The site is approximately 100 miles northwest of Savannah, Georgia, and approximately 26 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia, and across the river from the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (Barnwell County, South Carolina). The application for the **ESP** was submitted by letter dated August 15, 2006, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 52. A notice of receipt of application, including the environmental report (ER), was published in the Federal Register on August 29, 2006 (71 FR 51222). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for an early site permit for Vogtle was published in the Federal Register on September 26, 2006 (71 FR 56187). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of the review of the **ESP** application and to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process as defined in 10 CFR 51.29. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, ``Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act,' the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

In accordance with 10 CFR 52.17 (a)(2), 51.45 and 51.50, SERI submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and 52 and is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides

access through the NRC's Electronic Reading Room (ERR) link. Persons who do not

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have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov). The application may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp/vogtle.html>.

In addition, the

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Burke County Library, 130 Highway 24 South, Waynesboro, GA 30830-4572, has agreed to make the ER available for public inspection.

The following key reference documents related to the **ESP** applications and the NRC staff's review process are available through the NRC's Web site at <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.nrc.gov:>

- a. 10 CFR Part 51, Environmental protection regulations for domestic licensing and related regulatory functions.
- b. 10 CFR Part 52, Early site permits; standard design certifications; and combined licenses for nuclear power plants.
- c. 10 CFR Part 100, Reactor site criteria.
- d. NUREG-1555, Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants.
- e. NUREG/BR-0298, Brochure on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process.
- f. Regulatory Guide 4.2, Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Stations.
- g. Regulatory Guide 4.7, General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations.
- h. Fact Sheet on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process.
- i. Draft review Standard RS-002, Processing Applications for Early Site Permits.
- j. NRR Office Instruction LIC-203, Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues.

The regulations, NUREG-series documents, regulatory guide(s), and fact sheet can be found under Document Collections in the Electronic Reading Room on the NRC Web page. The draft review standard is at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/license-reviews/esp/esp-public-comments-rs-002.html>.

Finally, Office Instruction LIC-203 can be

found in ADAMS in two parts under accession numbers ML011710073 (main text) and ML011780314 (charts and figures).

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare an EIS in support of the review of the application for an **ESP** at the Vogtle **ESP** site. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (issuance of the **ESP** at the Vogtle **ESP** site) include no action and alternate sites. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 52.18 to prepare an EIS in connection with the issuance of an **ESP**. This notice is being published in accordance with NEPA and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the EIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft EIS for public comment. Participation in this scoping process by members of the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the draft EIS will be used to accomplish the following:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of EIS.
- b. Determine the scope of the EIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the EIS being considered.

e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.

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f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.

g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the EIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.

h. Describe how the EIS will be prepared, including any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in the scoping process:

a. The applicant, SNC.

b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.

c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards including the State Historic Preservation Officer.

d. Any affected Indian tribe including the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

e. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

f. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.

g. Any person who intends to petition for leave to intervene.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC will hold a public meeting for the Vogtle early site permit application EIS. The scoping meeting will be held at the Augusta Technical College, Waynesboro Campus Auditorium, 216 Hwy 24 South, Waynesboro, GA 30830, on Thursday, October 19, 2006. The meeting will convene at 7 p.m., and will continue until 10 p.m., as necessary. The meeting will be transcribed and will include the following: (1) An overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the EIS, and the proposed review schedule; (2) an overview by SNC of the proposed action, the Vogtle ESP, and the environmental impacts as outlined in the ER; and (3) the opportunity for interested Government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the EIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions during the two hours prior to the start of the public meeting at Augusta Technical College. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the EIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting or in writing, as discussed below. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting on the NEPA scoping process by contacting Ms. Cristina Guerrero by telephone at 1 (800) 368-5642, extension 2981, or by Internet to the NRC at [Vogtle\\_EIS@nrc.gov](mailto:Vogtle_EIS@nrc.gov) no later than October 12, 2006. Members of the

public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of the session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the EIS. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the

public meeting, the need should be brought to Ms. Guerrero's attention no later than October 12, 2006, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

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Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental

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scoping process for the EIS to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this Federal Register notice. Comments may be hand-delivered to the NRC at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments must be postmarked or delivered by December 4, 2006. Electronic comments may be sent by the Internet to the NRC at [Voqtle\\_EIS@nrc.gov](mailto:Voqtle_EIS@nrc.gov). Electronic submissions must be sent no later than December

4, 2006, to be considered in the scoping process. The staff will not consider comments submitted later than as specified above unless time permits. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through the NRC's ERR link <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.nrc.gov/nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> at the NRC Homepage.

Participation in the scoping process for the EIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the EIS relates. Notice of a hearing regarding the application for an **ESP** will be the subject of a future Federal Register notice.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection through the ERR link. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft EIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and a separate public meeting. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final EIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the EIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Mark Notich at (301) 415-3053 or [mdn@nrc.gov](mailto:mdn@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of October, 2006.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Thomas A. Bergman,  
Acting Director, Division of New Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear  
Reactor Regulation.  
[FR Doc. E6-16559 Filed 10-4-06; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

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