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NRC ISSUES FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR VOGTLE NEW REACTORS APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has completed its Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER) for a limited work authorization (LWA) and Combined Licenses (COL) for the proposed Vogtle Units 3 and 4 reactors. The NRC, in its FSER, concluded that there are no safety aspects that would preclude issuing the LWA and COL for construction and operation of the proposed reactor site, near Waynesboro, Ga. The FSER will be available on the NRC [website](http://www.nrc.gov).

The FSER and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) will be provided to the Commission itself for the mandatory hearing phase of the licensing process. In the mandatory hearing, expected to take place this fall, the Commission will determine whether the staff's review has been adequate to support the findings necessary to issue a COL. In addition, because the Vogtle COL application references the amended AP1000 design, the Commission must complete the certification process for that design before it can render a mandatory hearing decision on the COL.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted its COL application for Vogtle on March 28, 2008, and supplemented the application on Oct. 2, 2009. SNC is applying for permission to build and operate two AP1000 reactors at the Vogtle site, adjacent to the company's existing reactors approximately 26 miles southeast of Augusta, Ga. The LWA would authorize a specific set of activities that fall short of full reactor construction if the COL was delayed. Westinghouse submitted an application to amend the already-certified AP1000, a 1100 megawatt electric design, on May 26, 2007. More information on the AP1000 amendment review is available on the NRC [website](http://www.nrc.gov).

The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) independently reviewed those aspects of the application that concern safety, as well as the advanced safety evaluation report without open items (an earlier version of the FSER). The ACRS provided the results of its review to the Commission in a report dated Jan. 24. The NRC completed its environmental review and issued the FSEIS for the Vogtle COL on March 24.

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