

September 20, 2011

Memorandum to Counsel for Applicant and Staff:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is convening a mandatory hearing regarding Southern Nuclear Operating Company, et al., combined licenses for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4, and limited work authorizations. The hearing will be held on September 27 and 28, 2011, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day in the Commissioners' Conference Room on the first floor of the NRC's Headquarters building at One White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland.

The scheduling order issued on September 13, 2011, indicated that the order of presentation panels and time allocations would be reflected in the scheduling note for this proceeding. The scheduling note is enclosed. The scheduling note will also be posted on our public website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/tr/2011/>.

Please provide Ms. Rochelle Baval ([rochelle.baval@nrc.gov](mailto:rochelle.baval@nrc.gov), 301-415-1651) of my staff with the names and titles/positions of the individuals who will be seated at the conference table and in the well (near those at the table) for each of the panels.

*For the Applicant:*

Please send Ms. Baval the names and titles/positions of any other associates who will attending the hearing, so that they may also be pre-registered into the NRC's visitor system. Reserved visitor parking for Commission guests is available. If any wish to use reserved parking, please notify Ms. Baval by September 23, 2011, and provide the make, model, State, and license tag number of your vehicle. The NRC Headquarters building is located opposite the White Flint Metro Station on Rockville Pike and Marinelli Drive, Rockville, Maryland. The White Flint Metro Station is on the Red Line of the Washington area subway system. If reserved parking has been arranged, please check-in with the security staff at the entrance to the NRC campus on Marinelli Drive when you arrive. A Security Guard will call for an escort. Please note that visitors will be screened through metal detectors, will have their packages x-rayed, and will be required to present a picture identification card prior to signing in at the registration desk.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Annette Vietti-Cook  
Secretary of the Commission

Enclosure: as stated.

Final: 9/20/11

### SCHEDULING NOTE

**Title:** HEARING ON COMBINED LICENSES FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4, AND LIMITED WORK AUTHORIZATIONS: SECTION 189A OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT PROCEEDING (Public Meeting)

**Scheduled:** September 27-28, 2011  
9:00 am

**Purpose:** To receive testimony and exhibits regarding the application of Southern Nuclear Operating Company for two combined licenses (COLs) and limited work authorizations (LWAs) to construct and operate new nuclear power generation facilities at the existing Vogtle Electric Generating Plant site. The Commission will determine whether the staff's review has been adequate to support the findings in §§ 10 C.F.R. 52.97(a), 50.10(e), and 51.107(a) and (d); and focus on unique features of the facility or novel issues that arose as part of the review process and other significant technical or policy issues associated with aspects of the staff's review that are important for the Commission to make its final decision, such as the AP1000 design certification rulemaking currently ongoing.

**Duration:** 1.5 days

**Location:** Commissioners' Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> fl OWFN

NOTE: Chairman to provide opening remarks, admit exhibits, and swear in witnesses.

20 mins.

**Participants:**

**Presentation**

**Day 1**

**Overview (Southern Nuclear Operating Company)**

**30 mins.\***

TBD - (at the table)

**Seated in the well: TBD**

**Topic:** Overview

**Commission Q & A** (round of questions; 6 minutes each)

**30 mins.\*\***

## **Overview (NRC Staff)**

**30 mins.\***

**TBD - (at the table)**

**Seated in the well: TBD**

**Topic:** Overview including status of AP1000 design certification amendment, summary of key safety information associated with the AP1000 design certification\*\*\*, use of design centered review approach for the AP1000 COLs, relationship to the review for the early site permit (ESP) and LWA issued in 2009, status of second LWA request, and summary of regulatory findings. The staff should also discuss how it analyzed deviations and exemptions.

**Commission Q & A (round of questions; 6 minutes each)**

**30 mins.\*\***

***BREAK***

***5 mins.***

**NOTE: For the remaining panels, the applicant is expected to discuss the contents of the COL application while the staff is expected to discuss their review process and regulatory conclusions. Each panel should include a discussion of site-specific ITAAC or other License Conditions associated with the subject matter of the panel.**

## **Safety - Panel 1**

**Applicant**

**15 mins.\***

**Staff**

**45 mins.\***

**At the table: TBD**

**Seated in the well: TBD**

**Topic:** Relevant sections of the Application and the following chapters from the Final Safety Evaluation Report:

- Chapter 1, "Introduction and Interfaces," including novel issues associated with licenses for byproduct, source and special nuclear material.
- Chapter 2, "Site Characteristics," including overview of information incorporated by reference from the ESP.\*\*\*\*
- Chapter 3, "Design of Structures, Components, Equipment and Systems," including waterproofing membrane departure and key safety information incorporated by reference from the AP1000 design certification (e.g., shield building redesign and containment pressure relief system). \*\*\*

**Commission Q & A (round of questions; 6 minutes each)**

**30 mins.\*\***

***BREAK (Lunch Break- Approx. 12:30-1:30pm)***

***1hour***

## **Safety - Panel 2**

**Applicant**

**15 mins.\***

**Staff**

**45 mins.\***

**At the table: TBD**

**Seated in the well: TBD**

**Topic:** Relevant sections of the Application and the following chapters from the Final Safety Evaluation Report:

- Chapter 3 continuation, including the following COL review topics:  
Analysis of soil structure interaction, the second LWA request, and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' (ACRS) recommendation regarding inservice testing and inservice inspection for squib valves from the ACRS letter report on the Vogtle COL application.
- Chapter 6, "Engineered Safety Features," an overview of the contents of the license application and the staff's review and regulatory conclusions, including key safety information incorporated by reference from the AP1000 design certification.\*\*\* This discussion will also address the ACRS recommendations on the Vogtle COL with respect to the containment cleanliness program, and control room habitability from a toxic gas perspective.

**Commission Q & A** (round of questions; 6 minutes each)

**30 mins.\*\***

**BREAK**

**5 mins.**

**Safety - Panel 3**

**Applicant**

**15 mins.\***

**Staff**

**45 mins.\***

**At the table: TBD**

**Seated in the well: TBD**

**Topic:** Relevant sections of the Application and the following chapters from the Final Safety Evaluation Report:

- Chapter 19, "Probabilistic Risk Assessment," seismic margin analysis and external event frequencies within the scope of the COL and the novel issue within the scope of the COL review associated with Appendix 19.A, "Loss of Large Areas of the Plant Due to Explosions or Fires."
- Chapter 15, "Accident Analysis," including the ACRS' recommendation associated with reactor power uncertainty measurement.
- Chapter 7, "Instrumentation and Controls," including key safety information incorporated by reference from the AP1000 design certification.\*\*\*
- Chapter 8, "Electric Power," including an overview of offsite power, underground cable review, and departures from the design control document.

Note that the staff will not have specific topics to discuss for the following chapters. If the Commission wishes to ask questions on these chapters, this panel would be the appropriate time.

- Chapter 5, "Reactor Coolant System and Connected Systems."
- Chapter 16, "Technical Specifications."
- Chapter 17, "Quality Assurance."
- Chapter 18, "Human Factors Engineering."

**Commission Q & A** (round of questions; 6 minutes each)

**30 mins.\*\***

**BREAK**

**5 mins.**

**Safety - Panel 4**

**Applicant**  
**Staff**

**15 mins.\***  
**45 mins.\***

**At the table: TBD**  
**Seated in the well: TBD**

**Topic:** Relevant sections of the Application and the following chapters from the Final Safety Evaluation Report:

- Chapter 13, “Conduct of Operations,” including, with respect to Section 13.3, “Emergency Planning,” an overview of the information incorporated by reference from the ESP\*\*\*\* and COL information related to the relocation of the technical support center. In addition, the staff will discuss the novel issue associated with cyber security as evaluated in FSER Section 13.8.
- Chapter 9, “Auxiliary Systems,” including key safety information incorporated by reference from the AP1000 design certification associated with redesign of the spent fuel pool\*\*\*, and COL information associated with the raw water system.
- Chapter 12, “Radiation Protection,” including As Low As is Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) program for construction workers and minimization of contamination.
- Chapter 14, “Initial Test Programs,” including plant-only tests and first three-plant-only tests.

Note that the staff will not have specific topics to discuss for the following chapters. If the Commission wishes to ask questions on these chapters, this panel would be the appropriate time.

- Chapter 4, “Reactor.”
- Chapter 10, “Steam and Power Conversion.”
- Chapter 11, “Radioactive Waste Management.”

**Commission Q & A** (round of questions; 6 minutes each)

**30 mins.\*\***

**Day 2**

**Environmental Overview - Panel 1**

**Applicant**  
**Staff**

**15 mins.\***  
**45 mins.\***

**At the table: TBD**  
**Seated in the well: TBD**

**Topic:** The staff will provide an overview of the process used to develop the Vogtle COL supplemental EIS (SEIS) in light of the referenced ESP, and a summary of the staff’s analysis and conclusions in the SEIS with respect to the various resource areas. This will include:

- Overview of the staff's conclusions in the SEIS, including a general explanation of the role of the Vogtle ESP FEIS\*\*\*\*;
- Description of the staff's evaluation process, including:
  - Staff guidance
  - Assessment of the applicant's process for identifying new and significant information
  - How the staff's analysis was informed by interactions with the public and with governmental agencies at the Federal, State, and local level;
- Summary of the staff's analysis and conclusions in the SEIS with respect to novel or non-routine environmental areas encompassed by the review.
  - The staff will address the novel issue of how the COL environmental review accounted for ESP amendment requests that the applicant submitted during the COL review, with a focus on the resulting change in the staff's conclusion from the ESP FEIS regarding impacts to terrestrial ecology.

<b>Commission Q &amp; A</b> (round of questions; 6 minutes each)	<b>30 mins.**</b>
<b>Closing</b>	<b>60 mins.*</b>
<b>Closing Statement by Applicant</b>	<b>15 mins.*</b>
<b>Closing Statement by Staff</b>	<b>15 mins.*</b>
<b>Commission Q &amp; A and Closing Statements</b>	<b>30 mins.**</b>

\*For presentation only and does not include time for Commission Q & A's.

\*\*All Commissioners will have an opportunity to ask questions after each panel. Q&A time after each panel will be flexible to allow Commissioners to choose to ask questions after each panel or reserve all or some of their time for a subsequent panel.

\*\*\*Design issues associated with the AP1000 incorporated by reference have been or will be resolved in the context of the design certification rulemaking but are discussed here to provide context for the COL review.

\*\*\*\*Issues incorporated by reference from the ESP were resolved in the ESP proceeding but are discussed here to provide context for the COL review.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY	)	Docket Nos. 52-025-COL and
	)	52-026-COL
	)	
(Vogtle)	)	
	)	
(Mandatory Hearing)	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing SCHEDULING NOTE FOR MANDATORY HEARING ON COMBINED LICENSES FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 have been served upon the following persons by Electronic Information Exchange and by electronic mail as indicated by an asterisk\*.

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Vogtle, Docket Nos. 52-025-COL and 52-026-COL (Mandatory Hearing)  
SCHEDULING NOTE FOR MANDATORY HEARING ON COMBINED LICENSES FOR  
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4

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[Original signed by Evangeline S. Ngbea]  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2011.