

APPENDIX B

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNIT 3

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PLAN

(NONRADIOLOGICAL)

## 1.0 Objectives of the Environmental Protection Plan

The Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) objectives are to ensure compliance with Biological Opinions issued pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), and to ensure that the Commission is kept informed of other environmental matters. The EPP is intended to be consistent with Federal, State, and local requirements for environmental protection.

## 2.0 Environmental Protection Issues

In the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) dated March 2011, the staff considered the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Unit Nos. 3 and 4. This EPP applies to the licensees' actions affecting the protected environmental resources evaluated in the FSEIS and the licensees' actions that may affect any newly discovered protected environmental resources.

### 2.1 Aquatic Resources Issues

Federal agencies other than the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), have jurisdiction to regulate aquatic resources under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act or CWA) and the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 (RHA). Certain water quality environmental considerations identified in the FSEIS, including effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and mitigation measures, are regulated under the licensees' CWA permits, such as National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Section 404 permits, and RHA Section 10 permit. Nothing within this EPP shall be construed to place additional requirements on the regulation of aquatic resources except the imposition of the requirements in a Biological Opinion under the ESA (see section 2.3). The licensees are required to inform the NRC of events or situations concerning aquatic resources consistent with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi), and this EPP does not expand any reporting requirement required by that regulation.

### 2.2 Terrestrial Resources Issues

Several statutes govern the regulation of terrestrial resources. For example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regulates matters involving migratory birds and their nests in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Activities affecting migratory birds or their nests may require permits under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The FWS also regulates matters involving the protection and taking of bald and golden eagles in accordance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The licensees shall inform NRC of any events or situations concerning terrestrial resources consistent with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi), and this EPP does not expand any reporting requirement required by that regulation.

## 2.3 Endangered Species Act of 1973

The NRC may be required to protect some aquatic resources and terrestrial resources in accordance with the ESA. If a Biological Opinion is issued to the NRC in accordance with ESA Section 7 prior to the issuance of the combined license, the licensees shall comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Incidental Take Statement of the Biological Opinion. If any Federally listed species or critical habitat occurs in an area affected by construction or operation of the plant that was not previously identified as occurring in such areas, including species and critical habitat that were not previously Federally listed, the licensees shall inform the NRC within four hours of discovery. The time of discovery is identified as the specific time when a decision is made to notify another agency or to issue a press release. Similarly, the licensees shall inform the NRC within four hours of discovery of any take, as defined in the ESA, of a Federally listed species or destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The four-hour discovery notifications shall be made to the NRC Operations Center via the Emergency Notification System. The licensees shall provide any necessary information to the NRC if the NRC initiates or reinitiates consultation under the ESA.

**Unusual Event** - The licensees shall inform the NRC of any onsite mortality, injury, or unusual occurrence of any species protected by the ESA within four hours of discovery, followed by a written report in accordance with Section 4.1. The time of discovery is identified as the specific time when a decision is made to notify another agency or to issue a press release. Such incidents shall be reported regardless of the licensees' assessment of causal relation to plant construction or operation.

## 3.0 Consistency Requirements

The licensees shall notify the NRC of proposed changes to permits or certifications concerning aquatic or terrestrial resources by providing the NRC with a copy of the proposed change(s) at the same time it is submitted to the permitting agency. The licensees shall provide the NRC with a copy of the application for renewal of permits or certifications at the same time the application is submitted to the permitting agency.

Changes to or renewals of such permits or certifications shall be reported to the NRC within 30 days following the later of the date the change or renewal is approved or the date the change becomes effective. If a permit or certification, in part or in its entirety, is appealed and stayed, the NRC shall be notified within 30 days following the date the stay is granted.

## 4.0 Administrative Procedures

### 4.1 Plant Reporting Requirements: Non-routine Reports

A written report shall be submitted to the NRC within 30 days of occurrence of any unusual event described in Section 2.3 of this EPP. The report shall: (a) describe, analyze, and evaluate the event, including extent and magnitude of the impact and plant operating characteristics at the time of the event, (b) describe the probable cause of the event, (c) indicate the action taken to correct the reported event, (d) indicate the corrective action taken to preclude repetition of the event and to prevent similar occurrences involving similar components or systems, and (e) indicate the agencies notified and their preliminary responses.

Events reportable under this subsection, which also require reports to other Federal, State, or local agencies, shall be reported in accordance with those reporting requirements in lieu of the requirements of this subsection. The NRC shall be provided a copy of such report at the same time it is submitted to the other agency.

#### 4.2 Review and Audit

The licensees shall provide for review and audit of compliance with Section 2.3 of this EPP. The audits shall be conducted independently of the individual or groups responsible for performing the specific activity. A description of the organizational structure utilized to achieve the independent review and audit function and results of the audit activities shall be maintained and made available for inspection.

#### 4.3 Records Retention

Records required by this EPP shall be made and retained in a manner convenient for review and inspection. These records shall be made available to the NRC on request. The records, data, and logs relating to this EPP shall be retained for five years or, where applicable, in accordance with the requirements of other agencies.

#### 4.4 Changes in Environmental Protection Plan

A request for a change in the EPP shall include an assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed change and a supporting justification. Implementation of such changes in the EPP shall not commence prior to NRC approval of the proposed changes in the form of a license amendment incorporating the appropriate revision to the EPP.

The licensees shall request a license amendment to incorporate the requirements of any Terms and Conditions set forth in the Incidental Take Statement of applicable Biological Opinions issued subsequent to the effective date of this EPP.