

July 31, 2012

Mr. B. L. Ivey  
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
P.O. Box 1295  
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Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 - REVIEW OF  
60-DAY RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING  
RECOMMENDATION 9.3, OF THE NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RELATED TO  
THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated March 12, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) issued a Request for Information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.54(f) which included the Near Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 9.3 for Emergency Preparedness (EP). Specifically, licensees were requested to assess their means to power communications equipment onsite and offsite during a prolonged Station Blackout (SBO) event and to perform a staffing study to determine the staff required to fill all necessary positions in response to a multi-unit event. If a licensee could not meet the requested 90-day response, then that licensee was required to provide a response within 60 days of the issuance of the letter describing an alternative course of action and estimated completion date.

By letter dated May 9, 2012, and supplemented by letter dated June 28, 2012, Southern Nuclear Operating Company submitted its 60-day response for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4 proposing an alternative course of action based upon the units currently being under construction.

The NRC staff concludes that the licensee provided an adequate basis for its proposed alternative to responding to the 50.54(f) Request for Information regarding communications and staffing for NTTF Recommendation 9.3.

B. Ivey

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-6191 or via e-mail at [ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov](mailto:ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ravindra G. Joshi, Senior Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s). 52-025  
52-026

Enclosure:  
Staff Evaluation

cc: See next page

B. Ivey

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-6191 or via e-mail at [ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov](mailto:ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ravindra G. Joshi, Senior Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
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Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s). 52-025  
52-026

Enclosure:  
Staff Evaluation

cc: See next page

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ADAMS Accession No. ML12201B409

\*concurrence via email

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF EVALUATION

INFORMATION REQUEST MADE UNDER 10 CFR 50.54(f)

REGARDING NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 9.3

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 and 4

DOCKET NO(S). 52-025 and 52-026

By letter dated March 12, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12054A682), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) issued a Request for Information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), paragraph 50.54(f) which included the Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 9.3 for Emergency Preparedness (EP). Specifically, licensees were requested to assess their means to power communications equipment onsite and offsite during a prolonged Station Blackout (SBO) event and to perform a staffing study to determine the staff required to fill all necessary positions in response to a multi-unit event. If a licensee could not meet the requested 90-day response, then that licensee was required to provide a response within 60 days of the issuance of the letter describing an alternative course of action and estimated completion date.

By letter dated May 9, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12131A540), and supplemented by letter dated June 28, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML121850029), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted its 60-day response for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 proposing an alternative course of action based upon the units currently being under construction.

VEGP Units 3 and 4 are currently under construction with fuel load for Unit 3 scheduled for 2016. The submitted proposed schedule for the alternative course of action aligns with the current construction schedule for Units 3 and 4. In addition, these are not operating units therefore; there will not be an adverse impact on public health and safety. The requested information related to communications and staffing will be submitted while construction is ongoing and this information will be provided prior to the Unit 3 fuel load.

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's proposed alternative and the basis for the proposed alternative as outlined in the licensee's submittal letter. The NRC staff concludes that the licensee has provided an adequate basis for its proposed alternative responding to the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letters regarding communications and staffing for Recommendation 9.3.

Enclosure

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List  
cc:

(Revised 05/21/2012)

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