

Southern Nuclear  
Operating Company, Inc.  
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Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

ND-12-1501  
10 CFR 52.80

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Washington, DC 20555-0001

Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4  
Retraction of plans to Credit International Performance of  
First Plant Only and First Three Plant Only tests for Vogtle Units 3&4

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 combined licenses (COLs) (License Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92, respectively) to Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) on February 10, 2012.

On December 12, 2011, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) sent letter ND-11-2382 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In that letter, SNC described plans to utilize specific portions of the Initial Test Program (ITP) in China (Sanmen Units 1&2 and Haiyang Unit 1) to satisfy the requirement to perform First Plant Only and First Three Plant Only tests (FPOT and F3POT) at Vogtle Units 3&4. These special tests, described in Section 14.2.5 of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR), have also been specifically called out in proposed ITP license conditions for COL applicants referencing the AP1000 Design Certification.

Since that time, SNC has had regular interactions with Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (WEC) and the NRC to determine the feasibility of pursuing this alternative to performing those tests at Vogtle Units 3 and 4. Based on review of WEC's recommendations to not credit China testing and independent review of risks associated with pursuit of this alternative, SNC has decided not to pursue FPOT and F3POT testing credit for VEGP Units 3 and 4 based on FPOT and F3POT tests conducted in China.

This letter contains no NRC commitments. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Wes Sparkman at (205) 992-5061.

D092  
NRD

Ms. Amy G. Aughtman states that she is a Licensing Manager of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Company and to the best of her knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY



A. G. Aughtman

AGA/KJP/kms

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of August, 2012

Notary Public: Mary G. Sherburne

My commission expires: 12-1-2012

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ALABAMA AT LARGE  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: Dec 1, 2012  
BONDED THRU NOTARY PUBLIC UNDERWRITERS

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Mr. S. E. Kuczynski, Chairman, President & CEO  
Mr. J. A. Miller, Executive VP, Nuclear Development  
Mr. D. A. Bost, Chief Nuclear Officer  
Mr. B. L. Ivey, VP, Regulatory Affairs  
Mr. M. D. Rauckhorst, VP, Vogtle 3 & 4 Construction  
Mr. D. H. Jones, VP, Regulatory Affairs, Vogtle 3 & 4  
Mr. J. R. Johnson, VP, Operational Readiness, Vogtle 3 & 4  
Mr. T. E. Tynan, Site VP, Vogtle 1 & 2  
Mr. D. M. Lloyd, Project Support Director, Vogtle 3 & 4  
Mr. C. R. Pierce, Regulatory Affairs Director  
Mr. M. J. Ajluni, Nuclear Licensing Director  
Mr. D. L. Fulton, Environmental Manager  
Mr. C. H. Mahan, Site Licensing Manager, Vogtle 3 & 4  
Ms. A. G. Aughtman, Corporate Licensing Manager, Vogtle 3 & 4  
Mr. W. A. Sparkman, Licensing Supervisor  
Mr. D. W. Midlik, Licensing Supervisor  
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Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. V. M. McCree, Region II Administrator  
Mr. F. M. Akstulewicz, Deputy Director Div. of New Reactor Licensing  
Mr. M. E. Tonacci, AP1000 Licensing Branch Chief  
Mr. R. G. Joshi, Lead Project Manager of New Reactors  
Ms. D. L. McGovern, Project Manager of New Reactors  
Mr. B. M. Baval, Project Manager of New Reactors  
Ms. M. A. Sutton, Environmental Project Manager  
Mr. L. M. Cain, Senior Resident Inspector of VEGP 1 & 2  
Mr. J. D. Fuller, Senior Resident Inspector of VEGP 3 & 4  
Mr. G. Khouri, Senior Project Engineer VEGP 3 & 4  
Mr. C. Abbott, Resident Inspector of VEGP 3 & 4  
Mr. C. Huffman, Resident Inspector of VEGP 3 & 4

Georgia Power Company

Mr. B. H. Whitley, Nuclear Development Director

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Mr. M. W. Price, Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. K. T. Haynes, Director of Contracts and Regulatory Oversight

Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia

Mr. J. E. Fuller, Senior VP, Chief Financial Officer  
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Ms. J. Falascino, VP, Project Delivery  
Mr. T. H. Dent, VP, Consortium Project Director Vogtle Units 3 & 4  
Mr. R. F. Ziesing, Director, Vogtle AP1000 Operations and Consortium Licensing  
Mr. P. A. Russ, Director, AP1000 Global Licensing  
Mr. R. A. DeLong, Director of U.S. & International Licensing (acting)  
Mr. S. A. Bradley, Vogtle Project Licensing Manager  
Mr. T. J. Ray, Manager, AP1000 COL Licensing Support