



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE N.E., SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1200

March 1, 2023

Jamie Coleman
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Company
7825 River Road, BIN 63031
Waynesboro, GA 30830

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
PLANT, UNIT 3 (REPORT 05200025/2022012)**

Dear Ms. Coleman:

The NRC has completed its end-of-cycle performance assessment of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 3, reviewing performance indicators (PIs), inspection results, and enforcement actions from August 3, 2022, through December 31, 2022. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. The NRC concluded that overall performance at your facility preserved public health and safety. The baseline inspection program was completed at your facility in accordance with Section IV.B of the Transition to the Reactor Oversight Process for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 & 4 memo (ML20191A383).

The NRC determined the performance at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 3 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column, the highest performance category of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix, because all inspection findings had very low safety significance (i.e., Green), and all PIs were within the expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2024. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the NRC adjusted inspection plans and schedules to safeguard the health and safety of both NRC and licensee staff while still effectively implementing the ROP. While the PHE continues, overall conditions throughout the country support performance of our inspection and oversight activities returning to normal onsite presence by our resident and region-based inspectors and completion of nominal baseline inspection samples.

We continue to monitor site-specific conditions and, as discussed in our November 2, 2021, memo, “Implementation of Inspection Programs Following Re-Entry from the Public Health Emergency for the Reactor Safety Program” (ML21295A302), it may be necessary to alter how and when we perform our inspection and oversight activities as we balance the importance of protecting the health and safety of our staff with the need to conduct effective oversight that supports the NRC’s critical safety mission.

For inspections requiring extensive coordination with offsite organizations, such as evaluated emergency preparedness exercises, NRC guidance and frequently asked questions for security and emergency preparedness can be found here: <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/covid-19/security-ep/>. Similarly, the NRC has developed guidance if force-on-force inspections cannot be completed as scheduled due to an emergency, such as the COVID-19 PHE. These changes help ensure the health and safety of both NRC and licensee staff while maintaining the NRC’s important safety and security mission during the COVID-19 PHE. The attached inspection plan is accurate on the date of issuance but remains subject to change based on approval of potential exemption requests or other changes needed due to changing conditions in the COVID-19 PHE. NRC staff will contact your appropriate regulatory affairs staff in order to coordinate inspection planning and scheduling.

Beginning on January 1, 2023, the engineering inspection frequency will transition from a triennial (3-year) to a quadrennial (4-year) cycle. The new engineering inspection program will consist of a “Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection (CETI)”¹ and three “Focused Engineering Inspections (FEIs)” that will be performed in each quadrennial cycle. For the cycle beginning in 2023, the FEIs will be: “Fire Protection Team Inspection,” “Commercial Grade Dedication” and an engineering inspection that reviews age-related degradation and management².

¹ Aspects of the Design Basis Assurance Inspection (DBAI), Evaluations of Changes, Tests, & Experiments, and Heat Sink inspections will be included in the new CETI inspection. Previously scheduled Evaluation of Changes, Tests, & Experiments and Heat Sink inspections have been cancelled and removed from attached Report 22.

² The Age-Related Degradation procedure is publicly, and the NRC plans to implement the first inspection of this type beginning in July 2023.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 404-997-4428 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Signed by Davis, Bradley
on 03/01/23

Bradley J. Davis, Chief
Construction Inspection Branch 2
Division of Construction Oversight

Docket No. 05200025
License No. NPF-92

Enclosure:
Vogtle Unit 3 Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/ encl: Distribution via LISTSERV

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
PLANT, UNIT 3 (REPORT 05200025/2022012) Dated March 01, 2023

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OFFICE	RII/DCO	RII/DCO			
NAME	C. Even	B. Davis			
DATE	02/27/23	03/01/23			

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Site Inspection Activity Plan

Vogle 3

03/01/2023 - 12/31/2024

Unit	Start	End	Activity	CAC	Title	Staff Count
CYBER SECURITY INSPECTION						4
3	3/13/2023	3/17/2023	IP 81000.09	001465	Cyber Security Inspection for Construction	
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM INSPECTION						2
3	4/10/2023	4/14/2023	IP 71114.04	000719	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
3	4/10/2023	4/14/2023	IP 71151	001397	Performance Indicator Verification	
BASELINE SECURITY INSPECTION						1
3	5/15/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71130.02	000734	Access Control	
3	5/15/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71130.09	001656	Security Plan Changes	
3	5/15/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71151	001338	Performance Indicator Verification	
TARGET SET INSPECTION						2
3	6/5/2023	6/9/2023	IP 71130.14	000743	Review of Power Reactor Target Sets	
RP OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY BASELINE INSPECTION						2
3	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71124.01	000725	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
3	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71124.05	000729	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
SECURITY BASELINE INSPECTION						2
3	10/23/2023	10/27/2023	IP 71130.01	000733	Access Authorization	
3	10/23/2023	10/27/2023	IP 71130.06	000738	Protection of Safeguards Information	
3	10/23/2023	10/27/2023	IP 71130.08	000740	Fitness For Duty Program	
FOCUSED ENGINEERING INSPECTION (FIRE PROTECTION)						4
3	1/22/2024	1/26/2024	IP 71111.21N.05	001646	Fire Protection Team Inspection (FPTI)	
3	2/5/2024	2/9/2024	IP 71111.21N.05	001646	Fire Protection Team Inspection (FPTI)	
PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION & RESOLUTION						3
3	2/26/2024	3/1/2024	IP 71152B	000747	Problem Identification and Resolution	
CYBER SECURITY INSPECTION						2
3	3/25/2024	3/29/2024	IP 71130.10	000741	Cybersecurity	
UNIT 3 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION +SG						2
3	5/20/2024	5/24/2024	IP 71111.08P	000702	Inservice Inspection Activities (PWR)	
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE INSPECTION						5
3	5/20/2024	5/24/2024	IP 71114.01	000716	Exercise Evaluation	
3	5/20/2024	5/24/2024	IP 71114.04	000719	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
SECURITY BASELINE INSPECTION						2
3	5/20/2024	5/24/2024	IP 71130.04	000736	Equipment Performance, Testing, and Maintenance	
3	5/20/2024	5/24/2024	IP 71130.07	000739	Security Training	

Enclosure

Site Inspection Activity Plan

RP RAD SAFETY PUBLIC BASELINE INSPECTION						3
3	6/10/2024	6/14/2024	IP 71124.06	000730	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
3	6/10/2024	6/14/2024	IP 71124.07	000731	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
3	6/10/2024	6/14/2024	IP 71151	000746	Performance Indicator Verification	
SECURITY BASELINE INSPECTION						2
3	7/29/2024	8/8/2024	IP 71130.02	000734	Access Control	
3	7/29/2024	8/8/2024	IP 71130.09	001656	Security Plan Changes	
SECURITY BASELINE INSPECTION						3
3	10/21/2024	10/25/2024	IP 71130.05	000737	Protective Strategy Evaluation	