



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23TB5  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

March 4, 2002

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr., Vice President  
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT  
(REPORT 50-424/02-01 AND 50-425/02-01)**

Dear Mr. Beasley:

On February 4, 2002, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant. The end-of-cycle review for Vogtle involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period from April 1 through December 31, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility. This will provide you with the opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

As discussed in our previous annual assessment letter dated May 31, 2001, this inspection and assessment cycle consisted of three quarters (i.e. the second, third, and fourth calendar quarters of Calendar Year 2001) instead of the usual four quarters. This change was implemented in order to align the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2002.

Overall, Vogtle operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first two quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2003.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2003. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

With respect to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, immediately following the attacks, the NRC issued safeguards advisories recommending that nuclear power plant licensees go to the highest level of security, and all promptly did so. With continued uncertainty about the possibility of additional terrorist activities, the Nation's nuclear power plants, including Vogtle, remain at a high level of security. On February 25, 2002, the NRC issued an Order to all nuclear power plant licensees, requiring them to take certain additional interim compensatory measures to address the generalized high-level threat environment. These additional compensatory requirements will provide the NRC with reasonable assurance that public health and safety and the common defense and security continue to be adequately protected in the current generalized high-level threat environment. These requirements will remain in effect pending notification from the Commission that a significant change in the threat environment occurs, or until the Commission determines that other changes are needed following a more comprehensive re-evaluation of current safeguards and security programs. To date, we have monitored the Southern Nuclear Operating Company's actions in response to the terrorist attacks through a series of audits. With the issuance of the Order, in addition to the inspections described in the enclosed plan, we will evaluate Vogtle's compliance with these interim requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 404-562-4520 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Stephen J. Cahill, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425  
License Nos. NPF-68, NPF-81

Enclosure: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant  
Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

SNC

3

cc w/encl:  
J. D. Woodard  
Executive Vice President  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Charles A. Patrizia, Esq.  
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker  
10th Floor  
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20004-9500

J. T. Gasser  
General Manager, Plant Vogtle  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Arthur H. Dobby, Esq.  
Troutman Sanders  
NationsBank Plaza  
600 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 5200  
Atlanta, GA 30308-2216

J. A. Bailey  
Manager-Licensing  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Senior Engineer - Power Supply  
Municipal Electric Authority  
of Georgia  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Director, Consumers' Utility Counsel Division  
Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs  
2 M. L. King, Jr. Drive  
Plaza Level East; Suite 356  
Atlanta, GA 30334-4600

Office of Planning and Budget  
Room 615B  
270 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Office of the County Commissioner  
Burke County Commission  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Director, Department of Natural Resources  
205 Butler Street, SE, Suite 1252  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Manager, Radioactive Materials Program  
Department of Natural Resources  
Electronic Mail Distribution

Attorney General  
Law Department  
132 Judicial Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Resident Manager  
Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant  
Electronic Mail Distribution

**Vogle**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2002 - 03/31/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>2515/145 - TI 2515/145 (U1) RE: BULLETIN 01-01</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 2515/145	Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin :		03/06/2002	03/15/2002	Safety Issues
	<b>EB2 ISI - ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/18/2002	03/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-SEC - SECURITY</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7113003	Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Strategie		05/20/2002	05/24/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EP - EMERGENCY EXERCISE</b>		<b>2</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>BR2-BI - FLOOD PROTECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111106	Flood Protection Measures		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>2515/145 - TI 2515/145 (U2) RE: BULLETIN 01-01</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 2515/145	Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin :		10/07/2002	10/18/2002	Safety Issues
	<b>EB2-ISI - EB2-ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		10/14/2002	10/18/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION-@ SMYRNA ENV. LAB</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		10/30/2002	11/01/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-MODS - EB2-MODS/50.59</b>		<b>2</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>BR2-PI&amp;R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		11/12/2002	11/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL PREP - INITIAL EXAM PREP</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23129	VOGTLE 1/INITIAL EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		11/12/2002	11/15/2002	Not Applicable
	<b>PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/18/2002	11/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		11/18/2002	11/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		11/18/2002	11/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		11/18/2002	11/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/18/2002	11/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>BR2-PI&amp;R - PROBLEM ID AND RESOLUTION (WEEK 2)</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		12/02/2002	12/06/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23129	VOGTLE 1/INITIAL EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		12/02/2002	12/13/2002	Not Applicable

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Vogle**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2002 - 03/31/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
<b>PS-SEC - SECURITY</b>			<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		12/09/2002	12/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizatio		12/09/2002	12/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/09/2002	12/13/2002	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.