

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company; Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2; Exemption

1.0 Background

The Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-68 and NPF-81 that authorizes operation of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 1 and 2. The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of two pressurized-water reactors located in Burke County, Georgia.

2.0 Request/Action

Section IV.F.2.b and c of Appendix E, to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50 requires the licensee at each site to conduct an exercise of its onsite emergency plans and offsite emergency plans biennially with full participation by each offsite authority having a role under the plan. During such biennial full participation exercises, the NRC evaluates onsite and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluates offsite emergency preparedness activities, including interaction with its various State and local emergency management agencies. SNC's previously scheduled full-participation exercise at VEGP was successfully conducted during the week of June 12, 2002.

The licensee had scheduled a full-participation exercise for September 2004, however, FEMA requested that the exercise be postponed to enable the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to respond to multiple hurricanes. FEMA subsequently consulted with the States of Georgia and South Carolina, and in a letter to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency dated November 23, 2004, FEMA approved rescheduling the full-participation exercise to February 2005. Under the current regulations, the licensee would have had until December 31, 2004, to complete its next full-participation exercise.

By letter dated December 10, 2004, the licensee requested an exemption from Section IV.F.2.e of Appendix E to 10 CFR part 50 regarding the requirement to conduct a biennial full-participation exercise. The NRC staff

determined that the requirements of Section IV.F.2.e are not applicable to the circumstances of the licensee's request and, accordingly, no exemption from those requirements is being granted. However, the NRC staff has determined that the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR part 50, Sections IV.F.2.b and 2.c are applicable to the circumstances of the licensee's request and that an exemption from those requirements is appropriate.

3.0 Discussion

The Commission, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(1), may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50 that are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission, however, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), will not consider granting an exemption unless special circumstances are present. Under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), special circumstances are present when application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. Under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v), special circumstances are present whenever the exemption would provide only temporary relief from the applicable regulation and the licensee or applicant has made good faith efforts to comply with the regulation.

The underlying purpose for conducting a biennial full-participation exercise is to ensure that emergency organization personnel are familiar with their duties and to test the adequacy of emergency plans. In order to accommodate scheduling of a full participation exercise, the NRC has allowed licensees to schedule the exercises at any time during the calendar biennium. Conducting the VEGP full-participation exercise in calendar year 2005 as proposed places the exercise past the previously scheduled biennial calendar year of 2004.

Since the last full-participation exercise conducted at VEGP, Units 1 and 2 on June 12, 2002, VEGP conducted two annual Full Scale Plume Phase exercises on November 5, 2003, and June 30, 2004, and an off-hour/unannounced exercise on November 8, 2004. Six other emergency plan drills have also been conducted since June 2002. The NRC staff considers that the intent of this requirement is met by having conducted these series of exercises and drills. The NRC staff considers that these measures are

adequate to maintain an acceptable level of emergency preparedness during this period, satisfying the underlying purpose of the rule. Therefore, the special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) are satisfied.

The licensee also stated in its letter dated December 10, 2004, that only temporary relief from the regulation is requested for the exemption, since VEGP will resume its normal biennial exercise cycle in 2006. The NRC staff also found that the licensee made a good faith effort to comply with the regulation by originally scheduling the full participation exercise within the calendar biennium, in accordance with the regulation. The exemption is being sought by the licensee in response to a request by FEMA to reschedule the exercise. As documented in FEMA letter dated November 23, 2004, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency was unable to support the original schedule for the exercise due to a series of severe weather events that impacted its available resources. FEMA, in consultation with the States of Georgia and South Carolina, proposed a rescheduled date for the exercise that is beyond that allowed by the regulations.

The NRC staff, having considered the schedule and resource issues associated with those agencies that participate in and evaluate the offsite portion of full-participation exercises, concludes that the licensee made a good faith effort to meet the requirements of the regulation. The NRC staff, therefore, concludes that the exemption request meets the special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v) and should be granted.

4.0 Conclusion

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Also, special circumstances are present. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants SNC an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2.b and c for VEGP, Units 1 and 2.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (70 FR 19108).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of April 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Ledyard B. Marsh,
Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.
 [FR Doc. E5-2109 Filed 5-2-05; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Request to Amend a License for the Export of Radioactive Waste

Pursuant to 10 CFR 110.70(b)(4)
 "Public notice of receipt of an

application," please take notice that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received the following request for an export license. Copies of the request can be accessed through the Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> at the NRC Homepage.

A request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene may be filed within 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Any request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene shall be served by the requestor or petitioner upon the applicant, the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555; the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; and the Executive Secretary, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520.

In its review of the application for a license to export radioactive waste as defined in 10 CFR part 110 and noticed herein, the Commission does not evaluate the health, safety or environmental effects in the recipient nation of the material to be exported. The information concerning the application follows.

NRC APPLICATION TO AMEND LICENSE FOR THE EXPORT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Name of applicant and date of application*	Description of material			
	Material type	Total quantity (qty)	End use	Country of destination
Westinghouse Electric Company LLC. February 3, 2005	Class A Radioactive Waste—(contaminated scrap metals).	Increase the total qty of scrap metal from 149,320.0 kgs to 562,320.0 kgs and increase the total qty of low enriched uranium contaminanats to 9.0 kgs U-235 contained in 215 kgs uranium.	For decontamination and recovery for commercial use.	Canada
February 7, 2005 XW003/03 11005171.	Extend expiration date from 12/31/10 to 12/31/15.	

* Date received, application number and docket number

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
 Dated this 26th day of April 2005 at Rockville, Maryland.
Margaret M. Doane,
Deputy Director, Office of International Programs.
 [FR Doc. E5-2106 Filed 5-2-05; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act; Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 2005.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of May 2, 2005

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of May 2, 2005.

Week of May 9, 2005—Tentative

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

10:30 a.m. All Employees Meeting (Public Meeting).

1:30 p.m. All Employees Meeting (Public Meeting).

Week of May 16, 2005—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of May 16, 2005.

Week of May 23, 2005—Tentative

Monday, May 23, 2005

1:30 p.m. Discussion of Security Issues (Closed—Ex. 1).

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Results of the Agency Action Review Meeting (Public Meeting) (Contact: Lois James, 301-415-1112).

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

1:30 p.m. Briefing on Threat Environment Assessment (Closed—Ex. 1).

Week of May 30, 2005—Tentative

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

9:30 a.m. Discussion of Security Issues (Closed—Ex. 1).

Thursday, June 2, 2005

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Office of International Programs (OIP) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Margie Doane, 301-415-2344).

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

1:30 p.m. Discussion of Management Issues (Closed—Ex. 2 & 9).

Week of June 6, 2005—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of June 6, 2005.

* The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Dave Gamberoni, (301) 415-1651.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet