

18.0 REVIEW BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) completed its review of the application submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) for an early site permit (ESP) and limited work authorization (LWA) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) ESP site. The ACRS also completed its review of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's safety evaluation report (SER).

The ACRS ESP subcommittee met with representatives from SNC and the staff on October 24, 2007. The ACRS held its full committee meeting on the SNC ESP SER with open items on November 1, 2007. The discussions during these meetings focused on the staff's ongoing review, in particular the development and the significance of the open items identified by the staff. On the basis of its review, the ACRS issued an interim letter report, dated November 20, 2007, which addressed the portions of the SNC ESP application that concern safety. The staff responded to the interim letter report in its letter dated December 28, 2007. This final safety evaluation report (FSER) documents the resolution of open items discussed in the SER with open items.

During its meeting with the ACRS on December 3rd and December 4th, 2008, the staff discussed the resolution of open items for the ESP review as well as the staff's review of SNC's LWA request. Since an LWA was requested by SNC a year after its request for an ESP, the staff had not been able to present the results of its review of the LWA request during the October and November 2007 ACRS meetings. At the 558th meeting of the ACRS, the full committee considered the staff's advanced SER with no open items, as well as SNC's ESP application and LWA request, and issued its final letter report to the NRC Chairman on December 22, 2008. That letter report is included as Appendix E to this report.

In its final letter report dated December 22, 2008, the ACRS stated that the application for an ESP and LWA for the VEGP ESP site were adequate, and found that the NRC staff's review of the application were adequate. The ACRS concluded that the ESP and the LWA should be granted.