ACTION: Notice of the OMB review of information collection and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC has recently submitted to OMB for review of continued approval of information collection under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The NRC hereby informs potential respondents that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and that a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

1. *Type of submission, new, revision, or extension:* Revision.

2. *The title of the information collection:* Policy Statement on ''Criteria for Guidance of States and NRC in Discontinuance of NRC Regulatory Authority and Assumption Thereof By States Through Agreement,'' Maintenance of Existing Agreement State Programs, Requests for Information Through the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) Questionnaire, and Agreement State Participation in IMPEP.

3. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150–0183.

4. *How often the collection is required:* Four activities occur under this collection: annual requirements for Agreement States to maintain their programs; IMPEP reviews conducted no less frequently than every four years; participation by Agreement States in the IMPEP reviews; and, as needed, for States interested in becoming Agreement States.

5. *Who is required or asked to report:* Any State receiving Agreement State status by signing Section 274b. agreements with NRC and any State interested in becoming an Agreement State. Presently there are 30 Agreement States.

6. *An estimate of the number of responses:* 8.

7. *An estimated number of annual respondents:* For the 30 existing Agreement States, approximately eight are asked to respond annually. For States interested in becoming an Agreement State, an average of one every three years.

8. *An estimate of the total number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* For a State interested in becoming an Agreement State: Approximately 3,600 hours. For Agreement State participation in 10 IMPEP team reviews (8 State and 2 NRC Regions): 360 hours (an average of 36 hours per review). For maintenance of existing Agreement State programs: 219,600 hours (an average of 7,320 hours per State). For Agreement State response to 8 IMPEP questionnaires: 360 hours (an average of 45 hours per program). The total number of hours annually is 223,920 hours.

9. *An indication of whether Section 3507(d), Pub. L. 104–13 applies:* Not applicable.

10. *Abstract:* States wishing to become an Agreement State are requested to provide certain information to the NRC as specified by the Commission's Policy Statement, ''Criteria for Guidance of States and NRC in Discontinuance of NRC Regulatory Authority and Assumption Thereof By States Through Agreement.'' Agreement States need to ensure that the Radiation Control Program under the Agreement remains adequate and compatible with the requirements of Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act and must maintain certain information. NRC conducts periodic evaluations through IMPEP to ensure that these programs are compatible with the NRC's, meet the applicable parts of Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act, and are adequate to protect public health and safety.

A copy of the final supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW (lower level), Washington, D.C. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site (http://www.nrc.gov) under the FedWorld collection link on the home page tool bar. The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer by April 1, 1998. Martin Offutt, Office of Management and Regulatory Affairs (3150–0183), NEOB–10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, 301–415–7233.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of February, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–5238 Filed 2–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–424 and 50–425]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company; Vogtle Electric Generating Plant; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) update requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.71(e)(4), for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–68 and NPF–81 issued to Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., et al. (the licensee) for operation of the Vogtle Nuclear Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 1 and 2, located in Burke County, Georgia.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the VEGP, Units 1 and 2, FSAR. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would submit FSAR updates to the single, unified FSAR for the two units that comprise VEGP, within 6 months following the VEGP Unit 2 refueling outage, not to exceed 24 months from the last submittal.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated January 23, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would provide an exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4), which requires licensees to submit updates to their FSAR within 6 months after each refueling outage providing that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since VEGP, Units 1 and 2, share a common FSAR, the licensee must update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. Allowing the exemption would maintain the FSAR current within 24 months of the last revision and still would not exceed a 24-month interval for submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report for either unit.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that issuance of the proposed exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) will have no environmental impact. The change will not increase the probability

or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the VEGP, ''Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2,'' NUREG–1087, dated March 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 10, 1998, the staff consulted with the Georgia State official, Mr. J. Setzer, of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated January 23, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Burke County Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of February 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Herbert N. Berkow,

Director, Project Directorate II–2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98–5240 Filed 2–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Week of March 2, 1998.

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

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of March 2

Wednesday, March 4

2:00 p.m. Discussion of Management Issues (Closed—Ex. 2)

Friday, March 6

10:30 a.m. Briefing by the Executive Branch (Closed—Ex. 1)

11:55 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Note: 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: Bill Hill (301) 415–1661.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm.

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, DC 20555 (301–415–1661).

In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmhanrc.gov or dkwanrc.gov.

Dated: February 25, 1998.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–5397 Filed 2–26–98; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Request for Public Comment

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:
Rule 15a–6, SEC File No. 270–0329, OMB Control No. 3235–0371

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 15a–6 [17 CFR 240.15a–6] under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*), which provides, among other things, an exemption from broker-dealer registration for foreign broker-dealers that effect trades with or for U.S. institutional investors through a U.S. registered broker-dealer, provided that the U.S. broker-dealer obtains certain information about, and consents to service of process from, the personnel of the foreign broker-dealer involved in such transactions, and maintains certain records in connection therewith.

These requirements are intended to ensure (a) that the U.S. broker-dealer will receive notice of the identity of, and has reviewed the background of, foreign personnel who will contact U.S. institutional investors, (b) that the foreign broker-dealer and its personnel effectively may be served with process in the event enforcement action is necessary, and (c) that the Securities and Exchange Commission has ready access to information concerning these persons and their U.S. securities activities.

It is estimated that approximately 2,000 respondents will incur an average burden of three hours per year to comply with this rule, for a total burden of 6,000 hours. The average cost per hour is approximately $100. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for the respondents is $600,000.