

Plant Vogtle Community Newsletter

• July 2009 •



Dear Neighbor,

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I'm David Jones and in March 2009, I was named the new site vice president for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4. In this role I will oversee all construction activities at the plant site for the new units.

I have been a Southern Company employee for more than 30 years, and I'm a graduate of Auburn University with a degree in engineering. Most recently, I was the Southern Nuclear Engineering vice president at the company's corporate office in Birmingham, Ala.

I'm proud to be a part of an exciting project like this one. I've recently moved to the area, and I've already had the opportunity to meet some of you. I'm hoping to meet more of you as we work to build new units at the plant site.

Even though I am new to the Plant Vogtle expansion project, I have heard about your positive support at public meetings and letters to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Your support is very important in this process. We certainly appreciate all that our neighbors have done to help us move this project forward.

A particularly exciting aspect of this project is that the plant expansion will bring new jobs to Burke County. At the peak of construction, in the 2013-2014 timeframe, our contractors will employ more than 3,000 construction workers at the site. Additionally, when Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 become operational in 2016 and 2017, Southern Nuclear will need about 800 permanent employees to staff the new units.

As we grow at Plant Vogtle, our goal is to continue to be a good neighbor to all of you. Throughout this process, we want to keep you informed and make sure you have the most current information about the project. In this newsletter, you can learn more about activities going on at the plant site and find out what steps are next.

If you have questions or want to know more about the project, you can contact us by U.S. mail at the Plant Vogtle Visitors Center, 7821 River Road, Waynesboro, GA 30830. If you are interested in touring the plant, please contact the Plant Vogtle Visitors Center at 706-554-9407.

Again, I appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself to you, and I appreciate your support of our Plant Vogtle expansion project.

David Jones
Southern Nuclear
Site Vice President, Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4

Construction begins on new Vogtle units

In April 2009, Southern Nuclear, the licensed operator of Plant Vogtle, gave the Westinghouse-Shaw consortium full notice to proceed on the expansion at Plant Vogtle. This means that Shaw, the company contracted to construct the plant, can set up operations at the plant site and begin all construction activities at the plant, except those that are part of the plant's safety systems. Some of these activities include clearing land, cutting in roads and preparing lay down areas for construction.

Work going on now at the site includes demolition of old buildings and concrete slabs to clear the area where the new units are planned. Work is also underway to support the electrical power and water supplies needed for construction.

This summer, workers will begin digging the hole for Unit 3. The excavation will continue through February 2010. The hole will be 95 feet deep and several hundred feet wide. More than four million cubic yards of soil will be removed from the hole.

Other work that has already been performed at the plant site includes upgrading transmission lines that will be used to get power from the new units out to customers and tearing down old buildings at the plant site to clear areas for new construction. Construction trailers have also been brought onto the site to provide office space for both Shaw and Southern Nuclear personnel.

While this work is going on at the plant site, Southern Nuclear personnel in our Birmingham corporate offices are working with state and federal agencies to get all the appropriate approvals and licenses needed to build the plant. Based on the current schedule provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), we expect to receive the Early Site Permit in late 2009 and the Combined License (COL) in 2011. The COL allows the company to construct and operate the plant. Pending all appropriate approvals, Southern Nuclear plans for Unit 3 to be operational in 2016 and Unit 4 in 2017.



Update on licensing for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4

In June 2009, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued its ruling on contentions to the Early Site Permit that Southern Nuclear submitted for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4. The ASLB ruled in favor of Southern Nuclear and the NRC staff in all cases.

The ASLB is a group of judges formed to hear challenges to the Vogtle expansion and to hear Southern Nuclear's response to the challenges. During hearings held in Augusta and Waynesboro in March 2009, groups intervening into the licensing process told the judges that new units at Plant Vogtle would negatively impact fish and other aquatic life in the Savannah River. Southern Nuclear contends that adding two additional units at the site would result in only a small environmental impact, and the NRC staff agrees with Southern Nuclear. In its June decision, the ASLB agreed with Southern Nuclear and the NRC staff.

"These Early Site Permit proceedings have successfully demonstrated the NRC's new, streamlined licensing process," said Nuclear Development Licensing Manager Chuck Pierce. "The process has allowed Southern Nuclear and the intervening groups to express their opinions to the ASLB on various environmental issues through a hearing process."

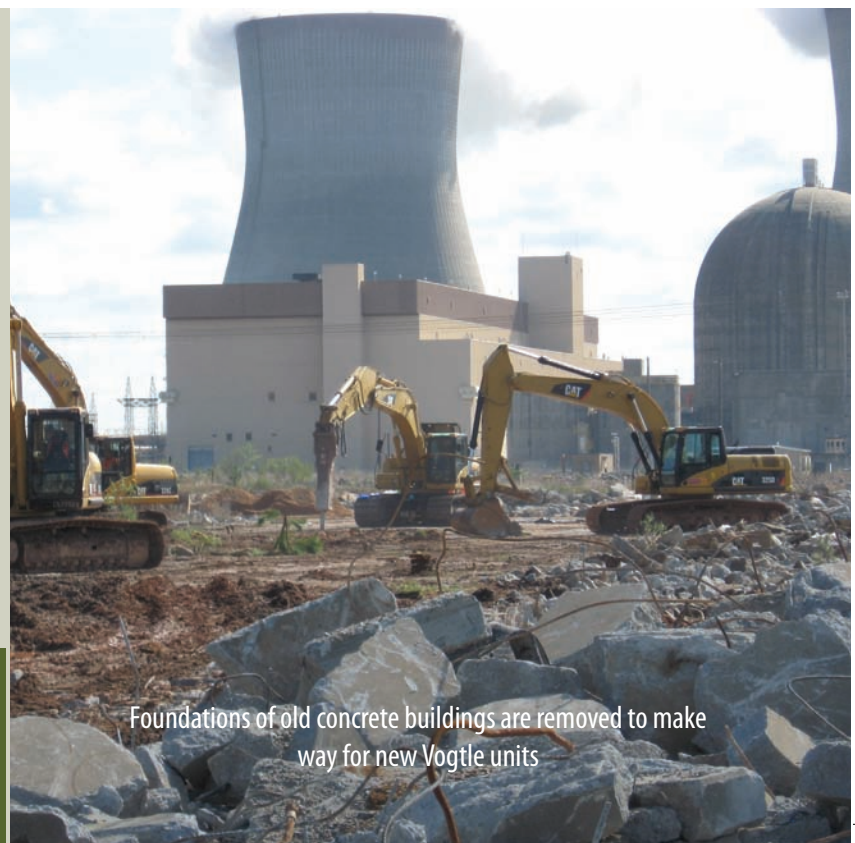
Southern Nuclear is scheduled to receive its Early Site Permit later this year. Southern Nuclear continues to work with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the next step of the licensing process, the Combined License (COL) which provides one license to build and operate the plant. In accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission guidelines, a similar hearing process will be held in 2011. Pending appropriate approvals, Southern Nuclear plans to have Unit 3 operational in 2016 and Unit 4 in 2017.

Timeline for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4

- August 2006 --- Filed Early Site Permit (ESP) application
- March 2008 --- Filed license application
- April 2008 --- Signed contract with Westinghouse-Shaw consortium
- March 2009 --- Georgia Public Service Commission certifies Units 3 and 4
- April 2009 --- Full notice to proceed is issued to Shaw
- Summer 2009 --- Excavation of reactor area begins
- Summer 2011 --- NRC decision on plant license
- 2016 --- Commercial operation for Unit 3
- 2017 --- Commercial operation for Unit 4

Want to Know More?

To find out more about Plant Vogtle or to schedule a tour, contact our plant Visitors Center at 706-554-9407, 706-826-3630 or 706-826-3632.



Foundations of old concrete buildings are removed to make way for new Vogtle units