The summer and early fall have been a productive time at Vogtle 3 and 4, near Waynesboro, Ga. The project has achieved significant milestones all while performing work safely and in compliance. Some of the major accomplishments included: lift and placement of the Unit 3 CA01 module, first shield building panels, Unit 4 CA04 reactor vessel cavity module and the start of work on the Unit 4 CA20 auxiliary building module. Georgia Power also recently announced the completion of multiple transmission upgrades and installations at the site in preparation to connect the new units to Georgia’s power grid.

The expansion at Plant Vogtle is part of Georgia Power’s long-term, strategic plan for providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable energy for Georgians well into the future. Once units 3 and 4 join the existing two Vogtle units already in operation, Plant Vogtle is expected to generate more electricity than any U.S. nuclear facility, enough to power more than one million homes and businesses in Georgia.

In August, another major construction milestone was reached at the Vogtle 3 and 4 project with the successful placement of the CA01 module into the Unit 3 nuclear island.

Weighing 2.28 million pounds, or 1,140 tons, the CA01 module is 70 feet tall and 80 feet wide. The CA01 module was assembled onsite in the modular assembly building (MAB), moved to the nuclear island as one piece and lifted into place by the 560-foot tall heavy lift derrick, one of the largest cranes in the world. To date, this is the heaviest lift at the Vogtle 3 and 4 construction site.

The CA01 module, made entirely of steel, will house two steam generators for Unit 3 in addition to other equipment.

The first shield building panel was placed in the Unit 3 Nuclear Island Aug. 14 and two sets of paired panels were placed Aug. 15. A sixth panel was set the next week, completing the first course of panel placements.

Consisting of 167 reinforced panels, the shield building’s primary function is to protect the containment vessel, which houses the reactor vessel and associated equipment. The shield building is made of steel and concrete in what is known as a steel composite design that is about 150 feet high and about three feet thick.

- continued on inside -
A Message from Georgia Power Waynesboro Area Manager - Cam Parker

As we’re nearing the end of 2015, it’s becoming clear that this has been an exceptional year in many ways — in our community and at Plant Vogtle. In addition to significant construction progress on Units 3 and 4 during the summer and early fall, other positive developments are included in this issue:

- Georgia Power recently announced that the contractors for the Vogtle nuclear expansion, Westinghouse and CB&I, have entered into a transaction that will position Westinghouse and its affiliates as the sole contractor over the project. This move prompts a settlement agreement among the contractors and Vogtle co-owners. The agreement is extremely positive for the project, as it resolves disputes, increases efficiencies and reaffirms the current schedule.

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) officials in Atlanta have selected Pauline Braxton as a Resident Inspector at Vogtle Units 3 and 4. Braxton joins three other inspectors already at the Vogtle nuclear construction site. Each operating U.S. commercial nuclear power plant site has at least two NRC resident inspectors. They serve as the agency’s eyes and ears at the facility, conducting regular inspections, monitoring significant work projects and interacting with plant workers and the public.

- Also, thirteen boy scouts ranging from age 11 to 15 recently gathered at the Vogtle Visitors Center to earn a nuclear science merit badge. Their visit was part of Nuclear Science Week, held every October across the nation as a part of an effort to engage communities and schools in nuclear science.

Keep reading here for more details on these stories and other positive developments at Plant Vogtle. Also worth mentioning is Georgia Power’s relentless focus on safe work habits. So far this year, Georgia Power and its contractors have worked more than 10 million work hours without a lost-time accident at Plant Vogtle.

Before I go, I want you to know that I truly appreciate any opportunity to communicate with you. It’s an honor to serve here in Burke County and I enjoy working with the many folks who are striving to make our wonderful community even better.

I hope you find this Community Newsletter to be helpful and informative. Until the next issue is released in spring of 2016, I look forward to seeing you in the community.

Cam Parker

Vogtle employees support Shell Bluff Neighborhood Renewal project - donated time, energy to refurbish homes

Plant Vogtle and Georgia Power employees recently donated their time and energy to participate in a Neighborhood Renewal project in the Shell Bluff community near Plant Vogtle. As part of a volunteer initiative by the Citizens of Georgia Power, employees worked to refurbish homes in the neighborhood.

To help refurbish this home (pictured right), employees took on a number of tasks, including basic repairs, light carpentry and painting.

Vogtle employees help in a neighborhood renewal service project.

Photo courtesy of Chip Westberry.
Westinghouse to lead construction at Vogtle 3 and 4

In late October, Georgia Power announced that the contractors for the Vogtle nuclear expansion, Westinghouse and CB&I, entered into a transaction that will position Westinghouse and its affiliates as the sole contractor over the project. As a result, Georgia Power and the other Vogtle co-owners (Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and Dalton Utilities) agreed on terms to settle all claims currently in litigation with the project’s contractors and to include additional protections in the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract against future claims.

“This settlement is extremely positive for the Vogtle project and now the contractors can focus 100 percent on project execution,” said Buzz Miller, Executive Vice President of Nuclear Development for Georgia Power. “The agreement resolves current and pending disputes, reaffirms the current schedule and increases efficiencies by streamlining resource deployment with Westinghouse and its affiliates as the prime contractor over the Vogtle expansion.”

Including this settlement, the project’s incremental impact on customer rates will average less than 1 percent per year until the project is complete. Georgia Power’s portion of the settlement cost is approximately $350 million, which is significantly less than current litigation claims. The agreement also reaffirms the current in-service dates of 2019 for Unit 3 and 2020 for Unit 4.

The settlement is subject to completion of the Westinghouse and CB&I transaction.

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NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Vogtle Nuclear Plant Construction Site

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) officials in Atlanta have selected Pauline Braxton as a resident inspector for the construction of Vogtle Units 3 and 4.

Braxton began her career with the NRC in the agency’s Nuclear Safety Professional Development Program and qualified as a regional inspector in Atlanta. While she was a regional inspector, Braxton participated in inspections involving fire protection, cyber security and digital instrumentation and controls. Before joining the NRC, she worked for General Electric’s Power Division and holds both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in electrical engineering from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.

Braxton joins Senior Resident Inspector Justin Fuller and Resident Inspectors Coleman Abbott and Sarah Temple at the Vogtle nuclear construction site.

Each operating U.S. commercial nuclear power plant site has at least two NRC resident inspectors. They serve as the agency’s eyes and ears at the facility, conducting regular inspections, monitoring significant work projects, and interacting with plant workers and the public. Inspectors can serve for up to seven years at any one site. Construction sites have their own NRC resident inspectors and the number assigned is dependent on the work being done at the site.
Vogtle 3 and 4 Construction Photos

CA04 reactor vessel cavity module placement inside the Vogtle Unit 4 containment vessel bottom head.

Construction personnel work on reinforcing steel wall sections below the containment vessel bottom head of Vogtle Unit 4.

Vogtle Unit 3 transformer foundation work.

Vogtle 3 and 4 construction site in October 2015.

The CA01 module, which will house two steam generators, inside Vogtle Unit 3 containment vessel.

To stay connected to the latest information, photos, videos, fact sheets and much more, scan the QR code to the right.
Boy Scouts earn nuclear science merit badge during Nuclear Science Week event at Vogtle

Nuclear Science Week (NSW) is held every October across the nation as a part of an industry wide week that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educational activities. The goal is to engage and excite communities and schools about nuclear science.

Many NSW activities were held throughout the local area, but a very unique program took place at Plant Vogtle early in the week. Representing local Boy Scouts of America troops 8 and 413, a group of scouts ranging from age 11 to 15 gathered at the Vogtle Visitors Center to earn a nuclear science merit badge—a somewhat rare badge for most Boy Scouts. While on site they learned about topics such as nuclear energy, radiation and power generation.

The scouts visited the Vogtle 1 and 2 control room simulator and radiation lab. These activities helped reinforce the concepts of nuclear power production—as well as the different aspects of radiation protection. The scouts also toured the perimeter of the Vogtle 3 and 4 construction site and the Vogtle Unit 2 cooling tower.

At the Vogtle Visitors Center, the scouts finished the day by building a cloud chamber—a type of particle detector. The Boy Scouts of America’s nuclear science merit badge has 12 specific requirements in order to earn the badge, all of which the scouts met with the activities they participated in at Vogtle.

“They’re constantly hearing about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in school and earning this merit badge shows them how it’s all used,” said Troop 413 Scout Master and Vogtle 3 and 4 CB&I employee Tony Troxel. “Nuclear concepts can apply to them and they realize you don’t have to be a rocket scientist—or even a nuclear engineer—to work in the nuclear industry.”
The footprint of Vogtle 1-4 covers 3,169 acres, four times larger than New York City’s Central Park.

The workforce constructing Vogtle units 3 and 4 is four times larger than the workforce building the new Atlanta football stadium.

The Vogtle Unit 3 cooling tower stands 60 stories high, taller than any building in 26 states.

The Vogtle Unit 3 cooling tower contains five times more concrete (64,000 cubic yards) than the Statue of Liberty.

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