

May 30, 2024

Chairman James S. Shaw, Jr.
State of Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington St SW
Atlanta, GA 30312

Attn: Commercial Operational Startup of Vogtle Units 3 and 4

Dear Chairman Shaw and members of the Georgia Public Service Commission:

The American Nuclear Society (ANS)¹ commends Georgia Power and Southern Nuclear for the recent milestone achieved with the start of commercial operations at Units 3 and 4 of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant in Burke County. This accomplishment marks the completion of a major clean energy project, with the construction of two new reactors in the State of Georgia. ANS's congratulations also extend to Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and Dalton Utilities for their visionary leadership and perseverance in constructing the first Generation III reactors in the United States.

The successful completion of the Vogtle expansion project would not have been possible without the constructive regulatory environment set by the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC), which allowed long-term investment in the new nuclear energy to occur. Thank you to PSC for the leadership in overseeing the successful completion of a generational investment in clean energy.

Vogtle's success is also due to a supportive labor force, including union jobs, that demonstrated resilience throughout the project. The operation of the four reactors at the Vogtle nuclear power plant enables employment for over 1,600 individuals, augmenting the existing workforce of 475,000 individuals engaged in stable, high-quality careers supported by the nuclear energy industry across the U.S.

Thank you to Westinghouse Electric Company and Bechtel Corporation for their project management and ability to complete the project. Specific recognition is also due to the following individual leaders: Chris Womack, CEO of Southern Company, Kim Greene, CEO of Georgia Power, and Steven Kuczynski, CEO of Southern Nuclear. This achievement underscores the collaborative synergy among industry stakeholders, state entities, labor, and the public, collectively fostering an environment conducive to success.

¹ The American Nuclear Society is the premier organization for those who embrace nuclear science and technology for their vital contributions to improving people's lives and preserving the planet. Established in 1954, ANS membership is open to all, and current membership consists of individuals from all walks of life; including engineers, doctors, students, educators, scientists, soldiers, advocates, government employees, and others. ANS is committed to advancing, fostering, and promoting the development and application of nuclear sciences and technologies to benefit society.

Vogtle Units 3 and 4 are now supplying dispatchable zero-carbon electricity to an estimated 1.8 million homes around the clock, regardless of the weather. Together, they will generate a combined 17,200,000 megawatt-hours of carbon-free electricity every year.

The economic and environmental significance of nuclear power cannot be overstated. Vogtle's two new Westinghouse AP1000 reactors will prevent an estimated 20 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually and avoid a staggering 1.2 billion tons over the reactors' lifecycle.² This positive impact aligns with our collective environmental objectives and the imperative to address climate change through the decarbonization of energy production.

Vogtle Units 3 and 4 enhance the reliability and resilience of Georgia's power grid by bringing online approximately 2,234 megawatts of weather-resilient and fuel-secured generating capacity. The two new additions make Vogtle the largest nuclear power plant in the U.S., with a total capacity of approximately 4,800 megawatts.

Now more than ever, it is imperative for the private and public sectors to continue advancing nuclear power development across America. By deploying new nuclear, we can establish a foundation of affordable, safe, and reliable clean energy that not only meets our current needs but also propels us toward a sustainable, more prosperous future.

Respectfully,



Kenneth Petersen
2023-24 President
American Nuclear Society



Craig H. Piercy
Executive Director / CEO
American Nuclear Society

cc: Tim Echols, Vice-Chairman
Fitz Johnson, Commissioner
Lauren McDonald, Commissioner
Tricia Pridemore, Commissioner

² The calculation for estimated avoided emissions over the lifecycle of Vogtle Units 3 and 4 is based on the Environmental Protection Agency's [Emissions and Generation Resource Integrated Database \(eGRID\)](#). eGRID states a coal-fired power plant has an average emissions rate of [2,180 pounds carbon dioxide \(CO2\) per megawatt-hour](#). This equates to 10.8 million tons of CO2 per year avoided by the carbon-free electricity production from one AP-1000 unit or over 20 tons of avoided emissions per year for both units. In turn, this amounts to 650 million tons of avoided CO2 per AP-1000 over a 60-year lifetime. Both Vogtle 3 and 4 would then prevent an estimated 1.3 billion tons of CO2 emission over their lifetime.