



NEWS

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April 5, 2019

Plant Vogtle Unit 2 begins new fuel cycle, installs world's first complete advanced fuel test assemblies

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Operators at the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant safely returned Unit 2 to service April 3 following a planned refueling and maintenance outage that began March 10. During the outage, Plant Vogtle installed the world's first complete, fueled, full-length test assemblies, known as accident tolerant fuel, containing both pellets and claddings.

“This innovative technology is expected to enhance the plant's already robust safety performance, as well as potentially lower plant operating costs,” said John Williams, Southern Nuclear fuel and analysis director. “The safety and health of our customers and our employees is always our top priority, and we will continue to pursue innovations that enhance safety and offer more operational flexibility.”

With support from the U.S. Department of Energy's Accident Tolerant Fuel program, Framatome developed the fuel assemblies with Southern Nuclear as part of Framatome's PROtect program of research and development.

The installation of complete test assemblies marks another significant advancement in the potential commercial deployment of accident tolerant fuel technology, with Southern Nuclear previously installing test assemblies containing fuel segments into Plant Hatch's Unit 1 as part of a refueling outage in 2018.

Each unit at Plant Vogtle requires new fuel every 18 months. In addition to refueling the reactor and performing regular maintenance and testing, workers made upgrades to plant systems and components. Last refueled in 2017, Unit 2 completed a 522-day breaker-to-breaker run, remaining online for more than 17 months of continuous operation.

“The work that this team safely performed during this outage will position Unit 2 for another full cycle of reliable operation,” said Vogtle Site Vice President Darin Myers.

This was the 20th refueling for Unit 2 since commercial startup in May 1989.

Plant Vogtle Unit 1 continued to safely generate electricity while Unit 2 was offline and refueling.

Southern Company subsidiary Southern Nuclear operates Plant Vogtle on behalf of Georgia Power and co-owners Oglethorpe Power, MEAG Power and Dalton Utilities. Employees from across the Southern Nuclear fleet assisted Plant Vogtle's staff of more than 900 in the refueling effort. More than 800 additional workers from Westinghouse, Day and Zimmerman, and other partners were on site performing specialized tasks. This supplemental workforce provides economic stimulus to surrounding communities during the planning stages and throughout the outage.

About Southern Nuclear:

Southern Nuclear, a subsidiary of Southern Company (NYSE: SO), is a leader among the nation's nuclear energy facility operators and an innovator in advanced nuclear technologies. Southern Nuclear is an essential part of Southern Company's energy portfolio, and its importance will continue to grow as America transitions to a low-carbon energy future. While the company produces clean, safe and reliable nuclear energy, it's also an economic engine powered by quality jobs and community service. Southern Nuclear operates a total of six units for Alabama Power and Georgia Power at the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant near Dothan, Ala.; the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant near Baxley, Ga.; and the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Ga. Southern Nuclear is the licensee of two new nuclear units currently under construction at Plant Vogtle that are the first nuclear units being constructed in the United States in more than 30 years. In 2017, Southern Nuclear won a Technology Transfer award from the Electric Power Research Institute, an Honor Roll award for superior performance in the global boiling water reactor fleet from GE/Hitachi, and the Drivers of Success Award from GT STRUDL. The company's headquarters is in Birmingham, Ala. Twitter: @SouthernNuclear; Facebook: facebook.com/southernuclear; www.southernnuclear.com

About Southern Company:

Southern Company (NYSE: SO) is America's premier energy company, with 44,000 MW of generating capacity and 1,500 billion cubic feet of combined natural gas consumption and throughput volume serving 9 million electric and gas utility customers through its subsidiaries. The company provides clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy through electric utilities in four states, natural gas distribution utilities in seven states, a competitive generation company serving wholesale customers across America and a nationally recognized provider of customized energy solutions, as well as fiber optics and wireless communications. Southern Company brands are known for excellent customer service, high reliability and affordable prices that are below the national average. Through an industry-leading commitment to innovation, Southern Company and its subsidiaries are inventing America's energy future by developing the full portfolio of energy resources, including carbon-free nuclear, 21st century coal, natural gas, renewables and energy efficiency, and creating new products and services for the benefit of customers. Southern Company has been named by the U.S. Department of Defense and G.I. Jobs magazine as a top military employer, recognized among the Top 50 Companies for Diversity by DiversityInc, listed by Black Enterprise magazine as one of the 40 Best Companies for Diversity and designated a Top Employer for Hispanics by Hispanic Network. The company has earned a National Award of Nuclear Science and History from the National Atomic Museum Foundation for its leadership and commitment to nuclear development and is continually ranked among the top utilities in Fortune's annual World's Most Admired Electric and Gas Utility rankings. Visit our website at www.southerncompany.com.

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