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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Energy lobbyist: DOE should reject Vogtle loan guarantee increase

By Eric Wolff

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Mike McKenna, president of the lobbying firm MWR Strategies, says the Department of Energy should reject a request from Southern Co.'s Georgia Power to increase the loan guarantees for the long-delayed and over-budget nuclear reactor project at the Vogtle power station.

"There comes a time in every administration when you have to look your friends, and even not your friends, in the eye and say, 'bank's closed,'" he told the POLITICO Pro Policy Summit.

Under the Obama administration, DOE approved loan guarantees totaling \$8.33 billion for the project's three owners, including \$3.4 billion for Southern. The company is awaiting a DOE decision on its request to hike that amount.

But an official from Exelon Corp, which operates the biggest fleet of nuclear power plants in the U.S., defended its utility peer.

"I see Southern as a pretty good risk to invest in, in terms of loan guarantee," said David Brown, senior vice president for government affairs for Exelon.

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