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June 16, 2000

Docket Nos.: 50-424
50-425

LCV-1371-A

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT
QUALIFIED LIFE OF ELASTOMER DIAPHRAGM VALVES**

By letter dated September 20, 1999, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) requested approval per 10 CFR 50.55a to use an alternative method for determining the qualified life of certain balance of plant (BOP) elastomer diaphragm valves in lieu of that specified in Regulatory Guide 1.84 for application of Code Case N-31. SNC prepared a safety evaluation based upon test data and predicted service conditions that justified a qualified life beyond the allowable five-year service life. The methodology used to determine the qualified life considers the effects of thermal, radiation and mechanical aging of the valve materials. SNC believes this methodology will optimize the replacement of elastomer diaphragms while precluding diaphragm failures, thus assuring that an acceptable level of quality and safety is maintained.

Per subsequent discussions with the NRC Staff, it has been determined that approval per 10 CFR 50.55a is not needed. This change may be made per the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59; therefore, SNC withdraws the September 20, 1999 request.

Please contact this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.B. Beasley, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

J.B. Beasley, Jr.

JBB/WCM

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cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
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Mr. M. Sheibani
SNC Document Management

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Mr. Ramin R. Assa, Vogtle Project Manager, NRR
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