

June 4, 2012

Mr. B. L. Ivey, Vice President
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 1295
Bin B022
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NO OBJECTION FOR PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT REQUEST
(PAR 12-003), "NUCLEAR ISLAND BASEMAT THICKNESS TOLERANCE," FOR
THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated March 30, 2012, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 12-003 notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that, absent NRC objection, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of LAR 12-003, SNC will proceed with the installation of the proposed plant change related to the nuclear island basemat thickness tolerance presented in plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Table 3.8.5-3, Note 2.

As required by License Condition 2.D(1), the NRC has received the license amendment request (LAR 12-003) referenced in PAR 12-003. The staff has evaluated the license amendment documentation supporting LAR 12-003 and has determined that there is sufficient information to accept LAR 12-003 for review (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Number ML12137A347).

NRC staff has determined PAR 12-003 contained a sufficient description of the no significant hazards consideration determination, the categorical exclusion from environmental review, and of the impact of the proposed plant change on associated Inspections, Tests, Analyses and Acceptance Criteria. In addition, NRC staff has reviewed the scope of PAR 12-003 and found that it is consistent with the changes from the current licensing basis as requested in LAR 12-003. Therefore, the NRC has no objection to SNC proceeding with the installation of the proposed plant change identified in PAR 12-003, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of LAR 12-003. SNC acknowledges that if LAR 12-003 is denied, SNC will return the plant to its current licensing basis.

B. L. Ivey

- 2 -

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, you may contact the Project Manager, Ravindra Joshi, at 301-415-6191 or via e-mail at ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-025

cc: See next page

B. L. Ivey

- 2 -

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, you may contact the Project Manager, Ravindra Joshi, at 301-415-6191 or via e-mail at ravindra.joshi@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-025

cc: See next page

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NRO-002

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(Revised 05/21/2012)

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