

January 17, 2013

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 13-003) FOR THE VOGTLE
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: BASEMAT SHEAR
REINFORCEMENT DESIGN SPACING REQUIREMENTS (RP9440)

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated January 15, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13016A169), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The proposed LAR would depart from the plant-specific Design Control Document Tier 2* material by clarifying the structural criteria details for shear reinforcement bar spacing within the nuclear island basemat concrete. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this LAR. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of the 10 CFR addresses content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

B. L. Ivey

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6191 or ravindra.joshi@NRC.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ravindra Joshi, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s): 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

B. L. Ivey

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6191 or ravindra.joshi@NRC.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ravindra Joshi, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s): 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

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NRO-002

OFFICE	DNRL/LB4:LA	DNRL/LB4: PM	DNRL/LB4:BC
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(Revised 01/10/2013)

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