

January 29, 2013

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

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NO OBJECTION FOR PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT REQUEST (PAR 13-003), "BASEMAT SHEAR REINFORCEMENT DESIGN SPACING REQUIREMENTS," FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated January 24, 2013, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 13-003 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML13025A160) notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that absent NRC objection, and pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of Licensing Amendment Request (LAR) 13-003, SNC will proceed with the installation and testing of the proposed plant change related to the revision of the structural criteria details for shear reinforcement bar spacing within the nuclear island basemat concrete. In the January 24, letter, SNC also clarified the scope of the PAR 13-003 associated with LAR 13-003. Specifically, SNC stated that the scope of the "no objection" sought by this PAR is limited to installation, testing, and quality control activities associated with the nuclear island basemat structure that are covered by the LAR 13-003, and that SNC will not pour the nuclear island basemat concrete until it receives the license amendments requested in LAR 13-003 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13016A169) and LAR 13-004 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13022A254).

As required by License Condition 2.D.(1), the NRC has received the license amendment request (LAR 13-003) referenced in PAR 13-003. The staff has evaluated the license amendment documentation supporting LAR 13-003 and has determined that there is sufficient information to accept LAR 13-003 for review.

The NRC staff has determined that PAR 13-003 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 13-003 and found that it is consistent with the changes from the current licensing basis as requested in LAR 13-003. Therefore, the NRC has no objection to SNC proceeding with the installation, testing, and quality control activities associated with the nuclear island basemat structure as identified in PAR 13-003, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of LAR 13-003. SNC acknowledges that if LAR 13-003 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, please contact the Senior 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, please contact the Senior 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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ADAMS Accession No.: ML13028A483

NRO-002

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DATE	01/29/13	01/29/13	

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- 2 -

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(Revised 01/22/2013)

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- 4 -

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