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FEB 15 2013

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

ND-13-0344
10 CFR 50.90
10 CFR 52.63

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

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4
Request for License Amendment and Exemption:
Turbine Building Eccentric and Concentric Bracing (LAR-13-005S) Supplement

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On February 8, 2013, in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.90, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), requested an amendment to the combined licenses (COLs) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 (License Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, respectively). This amendment request proposed to depart from approved Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 material that has been previously incorporated into the VEGP Units 3 and 4 Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) and the associated certified Tier 1 material that is involved with this Tier 2 material, and to revise the associated material that has been included in Appendix C of the VEGP Units 3 and 4 COLs. Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 52.63(b)(1), an exemption from elements of the design as certified in the 10 CFR Part 52, Appendix D, design certification rule was also requested for those plant-specific DCD Tier 1 material departures.

SNC is revising the Section 4.3, Significant Hazards Consideration, contained in Enclosure 1 of the license amendment request to correct a deficiency identified in the original submittal. The revised Section 4.3 to Enclosure 1 of ND-13-0260 is provided in this letter and is added as Enclosure 4 of the LAR.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.91, SNC is notifying the State of Georgia of this LAR by transmitting a copy of this letter and enclosure to the designated State Official.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wesley A. Sparkman at (205) 992-5061.

Mr. Brian H. Whitley states that he is a Regulatory Affairs Director of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Company and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY



Brian H. Whitley

BHW/NH/kms

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of February, 2013

Notary Public: Kristin Marie Seibert

My commission expires: August 16, 2016



Enclosure 4: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 – Revised Section 4.3, Significant Hazards Consideration for LAR-13-005 (LAR-13-005S)

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company/ Georgia Power Company

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Southern Nuclear Operating Company

ND-13-0344

Enclosure 4

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4

**Revised Section 4.3, Significant Hazards Consideration for LAR-13-005
(LAR-13-005S)**

Replace Section 4.3 of Enclosure 1 contained in letter ND-13-0260 with the following:

4.3 Significant Hazards Consideration

The proposed changes would revise the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 Combined Licenses to use concentrically and eccentrically braced frames in the turbine building main area and modify the applicable design code. The proposed changes involve departures from Tier 2, Tier 1, and COL Appendix C.

An evaluation to determine whether or not a significant hazards consideration is involved with the proposed amendment was completed by focusing on the three standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.92, "Issuance of amendment," as discussed below:

4.3.1 Does the proposed amendment involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

Response: No

The turbine building bracing design is changed to a mixed bracing system which uses special concentric and eccentric bracing. The turbine building does not contain safety-related systems or components. The main area of the turbine building continues to meet its design function of preventing a turbine building collapse from impairing the integrity of seismic Category I structures, systems, or components. The first bay of the turbine building is designed to prevent the collapse of the main area of the Turbine Building onto the Nuclear Island during a seismic event. The proposed changes do not affect or impact this design capability. Therefore, the response of the safety related systems, structures and components in the Nuclear Island to earthquakes and postulated accidents are not affected by the bracing of the turbine building. Based on the above, there is no change in the probability of an accident previously evaluated. The activity does not introduce a new fission product release path, result in a new fission product barrier failure mode, or create a new sequence of events that result in significant fuel cladding failures. Accordingly, there is no change in the consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Therefore, the proposed amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

4.3.2 Does the proposed amendment create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

Response: No

The turbine building bracing design is changed to a mixed bracing system which uses Special Concentrically Braced Framing (SCBF) and Eccentrically Braced Framing (EBF). The main area of the turbine building continues to meet its design function of preventing a turbine building collapse from impairing the integrity of seismic Category I structures, systems, or components. The design function of the turbine building first bay to provide the intended limitations to a potential collapse onto the nuclear island during a seismic event is retained. The turbine building structure does not involve any accident initiating component, and

therefore, changes to use SCBF and EBF would not introduce new accident components or faults.

Therefore, the proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

4.3.3 Does the proposed amendment involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

Response: No

Use of a mixed bracing system and changing the structural code design for the turbine building main area continue to meet the design function of preventing a turbine building collapse from impairing the integrity of seismic Category I Structures, Systems, and Components. In addition, the first bay of the turbine building continues to be designed to seismic Category II requirements to prevent a turbine building collapse from impairing the integrity of the seismic Category I nuclear island structures, systems and components. This portion of the turbine building and its design is unchanged by the proposed amendment. Maintaining the seismic Category II rating for the turbine building first bay, along with continuing to meet the design function for the non-safety, non-seismic design of the turbine building main area preserves the current structural safety margins.

Therefore, the proposed amendment does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

Based on the above, it is concluded that the proposed amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration under the standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.92(c), and, accordingly, a finding of “no significant hazards consideration” is justified.