



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 24, 2013

Mr. C. R. Pierce
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295, Bin - 038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (TAC NOS. ME7105 AND ME7106)

Dear Mr. Pierce:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is performing a review of the License Amendment Request (LAR) dated September 1, 2011, and its supplements for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) to revise Technical Specification 3.7.9, Ultimate Heat Sink. Based on our detailed review of the LAR, please find enclosed one Request for Additional Information (RAI). The licensee's response to this RAI is needed to clarify the VEGP licensing basis for tornado missile effects on the nuclear service cooling water (NSCW) towers.

Please provide the additional information at the earliest practical time but no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Martin".

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosure:
Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VOTGLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (VEGP)

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-424 AND 50-425

By letter dated September 1, 2011, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML112450171), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC or the licensee), submitted a license amendment request (LAR) to change the Technical Specifications (TS) for the VEGP. The amendment would revise the TS Limiting Condition for Operations for Operation 3.7.9 "Ultimate Heat Sink (UHS)." The proposed changes involve revising the criteria for the Nuclear Service Cooling Water (NSCW) tower three and four fan operation. These proposed changes include an increase in the wet bulb temperature limit for three fan operation and addition of a Condition that allows a seven-day Completion Time for a specified situation.

Background

Updated Final Safety Analysis (UFSAR, FSAR) Section 1.9.117.2 states that the NSCW tower fans are not missile protected.

FSAR Section 3.5.3 states that tornado missile protection is not required for the NSCW tower fans.

FSAR Section 9.2.5.2.4 assumes one fan is lost as a result of a tornado missile strike during hot standby.

The licensee's application dated September 1, 2011, states that NUREG 1137, the safety evaluation report for the VEGP, refers to a study using site-specific Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) methodology that demonstrated that the frequency of tornado missiles disabling the UHS (2 or more fans) has a low probability of causing radiological exposure in excess of 10 CFR Part 100 guidelines.

The licensee used loss of one fan due to a tornado missile strike in the supplemental letters to the license amendment request.

Issue

Sections of the FSAR conflict and are not clear regarding the licensing basis for tornado missile effect on the NSCW cooling towers. The Technical Specification Bases do not state the licensing basis although the proposed license amendment accounts for loss of one fan in the operable tower due to for tornado missile effects.

Request

Provide FSAR and TS Bases updates that clearly defines the licensing basis for tornado missile protection and tornado missile effects on the NSCW cooling towers.

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