

August 20, 2013

Mr. B. L. Ivey, Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
40 Inverness Center Parkway, B022  
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR A LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 13-014) FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: REINFORCED CONCRETE TO STEEL PLATE COMPOSITE CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS (TAC NO. RP9457)

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated July 2, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML131830560), Southern Nuclear Operating Company submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The proposed amendment would depart from VEGP Units 3 and 4 Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) Tier 2\* and associated Tier 2 information related to design details of connections in several locations between the steel plate composite construction (SC) used for the shield building and the standard reinforced concrete (RC) walls, floors, and roofs of the auxiliary building and lower walls of the shield building.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this license amendment request. 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.

B. L. Ivey

- 2 -

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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6185 or [anthony.minarik@nrc.gov](mailto:anthony.minarik@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Anthony Minarik, 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 -

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6185 or [anthony.minarik@nrc.gov](mailto:anthony.minarik@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Anthony Minarik, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
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Office of New Reactors

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

cc: See next page

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(Revised 07/25/2013)

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