

August 21, 2013

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 13-007) AND EXEMPTION FOR
THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: TURBINE
BUILDING BATTERY ROOM AND ELECTRICAL CHANGES (RP9445 AND
RP9446)

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated March 15, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML130770148), and revised by a letter dated July 10, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML131920248) and supplemented by a letter dated August 16, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13233A109), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a license amendment and an exemption for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The proposed license amendment request would depart from the plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 1 and Tier 2 material by making changes to the Non-Class 1E direct current and Uninterruptible Power Supply System (EDS) and Uninterruptible Power Supply System (IDS) and making changes to the corresponding Tier 1 information in Appendix C to the Combined License. The proposed changes would:

- (1) Increase EDS total equipment capacity, component ratings, and protective device sizing to support increased load demand;
- (2) Relocate equipment and moving Turbine Building (TB) first bay EDS Battery Room and Charger Room. The floor elevation increases from elevation 148'-0" to elevation 148'-10" to accommodate associated equipment cabling with this activity; and
- (3) Remove the Class 1E IDS Battery Back-up tie to the Non-Class 1E EDS Battery.

SNC has also requested an exemption from the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, Appendix D, Section III.B, "Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design, Scope and Contents," to allow a departure from the elements of the certification information in Tier 1 of the generic DCD.

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

B. L. Ivey

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Consistent with Section 50.90 of the 10 CFR, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow 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 reviews and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability, of the proposed amendment and exemption, 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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301)415-6191 or Ravindra.Joshi@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA Lawrence Burkhart for:/

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

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Sincerely,

/RA Lawrence Burkhart for:/i

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

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NAME	RButler	RJoshi*	LBurkhart
DATE	8/21/13	8/21/13	8/21/13

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 07/25/2013)

cc:

Resident Manager
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant
7821 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Rita Kilpatrick
250 Arizona Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30307

Office of the Attorney General
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Stephen E. Kuczynski
Chairman, President and CEO
Southern Nuclear
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Southern Nuclear Op. Co.
Document Control Coordinator
42 Inverness Center parkway
Attn: B236
Birmingham, AL 35242

Mr. Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
Atlanta, GA 30334

Lucious Abram
Commissioner -
Burke's County Commissioner
P. O. Box 1626
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Joseph A. (Buzz) Miller
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
241 Ralph McGill Blvd.
BIN 10240
Atlanta, GA 30308-3374

Anne F. Appleby
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
Tucker, GA 30084

Resident Inspector
Plant Vogtle 3&4
7825 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

County Commissioner
Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Elaine Sikes
Burke County Library
130 Highway 24 South
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. James C. Hardeman
Environmental Radiation Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
4220 International Pkwy, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

Mr. Jerry Smith
Commissioner
District 8
Augusta-Richmond County Commission
1332 Brown Road
Hephzibah, GA 30815

B. L. Ivey
VP, Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway, B022
Birmingham, AL 35242

Gene Stilp
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

George B. Taylor, Jr.
2100 East Exchange Pl
Atlanta, GA 30084-5336

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
agbaker@southernco.com (Ann Baker)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
bhwhite@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
blivey@southernco.com (Pete Ivey)
bob.masse@opc.com (Resident Manager)
bwwaites@southernco.com (Brandon Waites)
chmahan@southernco.com (Howard Mahan)
collinlj@westinghouse.com (Leslie Collins)
courtney@georgiawand.org (Courtney Hanson)
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)
csguinn@southernco.com (Candace Guinn)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)
danawill@southernco.com (Dana Williams)
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
david.siefken@hq.doe.gov (David Siefken)
delongra@westinghouse.com (Rich DeLong)
dgbost@southernco.com (Danny Bost)
dlfulton@southernco.com (Dale Fulton)
drculver@southernco.com (Randy Culver)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
edavis@pegasusgroup.us (Ed David)
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)
G2NDRMDC@southernco.com (SNC Document Control)
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)
jamiller@southernco.com (Buzz Miller)
jbtomase@southernco.com (Janice Tomasello)
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)
jhall@southernco.com (Jennifer Hall)
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)
jmgidden@southernco.com (John Giddens)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
jranalli@meagpower.org (Jerry Ranalli)
jrjohnso@southernco.com (Randy Johnson)
jtdavis@southernco.com (Jim Davis)
jtgasser@southernco.com (Jeff Gasser)
karen.patterson@ttnus.com (Karen Patterson)
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)
kim.haynes@opc.com (Kim Haynes)
kmseiber@southernco.com (Kristin Seibert)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
ldperry@southernco.com (Leigh D. Perry)
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)
markus.popa@hq.doe.gov (Markus Popa)
matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)
mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)
mdrauckh@southernco.com (Mark Rauckhorst)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
mike.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
nlhender@southernco.com (Nancy Henderson)
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)
randall@nexusamllc.com (Randall Li)
rhenry@ap.org (Ray Henry)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
russpa@westinghouse.com (Paul Russ)
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)
skauffman@mpr.com (Storm Kauffman)
skuczyns@southernco.com (Steve Kuczynski)
sroetger@psc.state.ga.us (Steve Roetger)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
taterrel@southernco.com (Todd Terrell)
tlubnow@mpr.com (Tom Lubnow)
Tom.Bilik@nrc.gov (Thomas Bilik)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)
wasparkm@southernco.com (Wesley A. Sparkman)
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)
whelmore@aol.com (Bill Elmore)