

December 20, 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 13-039) FOR THE VOGTLE
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: COATING THERMAL
CONDUCTIVITY (RP9487)

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated November 21, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13326A973), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a license amendment for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The amendment request proposes to depart from the approved AP1000 Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information as incorporated into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) for VEGP Units 3 and 4, to allow use of a new methodology to determine the effective thermal conductivity resulting from oxidation of the inorganic zinc (IOZ) used in the containment vessel coating system.

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

Consistent with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.90, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. 10 CFR, Section 52.79 addresses the content of the technical information that is required for such applications. 10 CFR, Section 52.79 stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

B. L. Ivey

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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, 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)415-1439 or David.Jaffe@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David H. Jaffe, 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

- 2 -

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, 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)415-1439 or David.Jaffe@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager
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Office of New Reactors

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

cc: See next page

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NRO-002

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(Revised 10/30/2013)

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