

December 31, 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 SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S  
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 13-034) FOR THE VOGTLE  
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: RECLASSIFICATION OF  
PORTIONS OF HUMAN FACTORS VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION  
PLANNING DOCUMENTS (TAC NO. RP9482)

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By letter dated November 27, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13331B502), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) to Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. The requested amendment reclassifies portions of the five Tier 2\* Human Factors (HF) Verification and Validation (V&V) planning documents listed in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) Table 1.6-1 and Chapter 18, Subsection 18.11.2. These five documents outline the overall plan for HF V&V, including the Human Factors Engineering (HFE) design verification, task support verification, integrated system validation, discrepancy resolution process, and verification at plant startup. SNC stated that the requested amendment identifies the portions of the five HF V&V planning documents that would more appropriately be classified as Tier 2, due to those portions having no impact on safety, and proposes the necessary departures to reclassify this information. This differentiation between Tier 2 and Tier 2\* information in the HF V&V planning documents will allow for revisions of these documents using the Tier 2 change process provided in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants," Appendix D, "Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design," Section VIII.B.5.

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

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 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.

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](mailto:Ravindra.Joshi@nrc.gov) .

Sincerely,

***/RA David H. Jaffe for:/***

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

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

B. L. Ivey

- 2 -

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Sincerely,

***/RA David H. Jaffe for:/***

Ravindra Joshi, Senior Project Manager  
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Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

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\*via e-mail

NRO-002

<b>OFFICE</b>	DNRL/LB4:PM	DNRL/LB4:LA	DNRL/LB4:PM	DNRL/LB4:BC	DNRL/LB4:PM
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(Revised 12/18/2013)

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