

VoglecolRAIsPEm Resource

From: Jaffe, David
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By letter dated February 6, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15037A715), 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 requested amendment requires changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (PS-DCD) Tier 2 information including the Technical Requirements Manual (TRM) and involves related changes to COL Appendix C information, with corresponding changes to the associated plant-specific Tier 1 information. Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 52.63(b)(1), an exemption from elements of the design as certified in the 10 CFR Part 52, Appendix D, design certification rule is also requested for the plant-specific DCD Tier 1 material departures. The proposed departures consist of changes to plant-specific Tier 1 (and COL Appendix C) tables and UFSAR tables, text, and figures related to the addition of two hydrogen igniters above the IRWST roof vents to improve hydrogen burn capabilities, incorporating consistency changes to a plant-specific Tier 1 table to clarify the minimum surface temperature of the hydrogen igniters and igniter location, removal of hydrogen igniters from the Protection and Safety Monitoring System (PMS) from a plant-specific Tier 1 table, and clarification of hydrogen igniter controls in a Tier 1 table.

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.

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 Chandu Patel at (301)415-3025 or Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov.