

July 2, 2015

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
42 Inverness Center Parkway
BIN B237
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NO OBJECTION FOR PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT REQUEST
(PAR 15-009), "USE OF AWS D1.1-2000 CRITERIA FOR STRUCTURAL WELDS"
FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated June 1, 2015, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 15-009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML15152A487) notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that absent NRC objection, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of License Amendment Request (LAR) 15-009 (ADAMS Accession Number ML15146A444), SNC will proceed with construction of components for seismic Category I and II structures utilizing the criteria of American Welding Society (AWS) D1.1-2000 for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 and consistent with requested changes in LAR 15-009.

As required by License Condition 2.D.(1) the NRC has received LAR 15-009 referenced in PAR 15-009. The LAR 15-009 has been supplemented by letter dated May 28, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15148A585) and June 29, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15181A078). The staff has evaluated the license amendment documentation supporting LAR 15-009 and has determined that there is sufficient information to accept LAR 15-009 for detailed technical review (ADAMS Accession Number ML15148A304).

The NRC staff has determined that PAR 15-009 contained sufficient information on the impact of the proposed plant change on associated Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria. In addition, the NRC staff has reviewed the scope of PAR 15-009 and found that it is consistent with the changes from the current licensing basis as requested in LAR 15-009 as supplemented. Therefore, the NRC has no objection to SNC proceeding with the construction of the proposed plant change identified in PAR 15-009 pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of LAR 15-009 as revised. SNC acknowledges that if LAR 15-009 is denied, SNC will return the plant to its current licensing basis as required by License Condition 2.D.(1)(b).

B. H. Whitley

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Senior Project Manager, Chandu Patel, at 301-415-3025 or via e-mail at Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Francis Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

B. H. Whitley

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Senior Project Manager, Chandu Patel, at 301-415-3025 or via e-mail at Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Francis Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

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*** Via E-mail**

NRO-002

OFFICE	NRO:DNRL/LA	NRO:DNRL/PM	NRO:DCIP/ROE
NAME	RButler	CPatel	JWilson*
DATE	6/25/15	7/2/15	6/4/15
OFFICE	NRO:DNRL/LB4/(A)BC	NRO:DNRL/D	
NAME	PKallan	FAkstulewicz	
DATE	7/2/15	7/2/15	

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B. H. Whitley

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 06/16/2015)

cc:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gene Stilp
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

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

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

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

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

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

Brian H. Whitley
42 Inverness Center Parkway
BIN B237
Birmingham, AL 35242

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

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
becky@georgiawand.org (Becky Rafter)
bhwhittle@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
bill.wood@cbi.com (Bill Wood)
bjadams@southernco.com (Brad Adams)
bwwaites@southernco.com (Brandon Waites)
collinlj@westinghouse.com (Leslie Collins)
couturgf@westinghouse.com (Gerald Couture)
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)
curtis.castell@cbi.com (Curtis Castell)
curtis.castell@cbi.com (Curtis Castell)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)
david.jantosik@cbi.com (David Jantosik)
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)
drkulver@southernco.com (Randy Culver)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
edavis@pegasusgroup.us (Ed David)
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)
fdhundle@southernco.com (Forrest Hundley)
G2NDRMDC@southernco.com (SNC Document Control)
graysw@westinghouse.com (Scott W. Gray)
james.comer@cbi.com (James Comer)
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)
jamiller@southernco.com (Buzz Miller)
jbtomase@southernco.com (Janice Tomasello)
jeff.lyash@cbi.com (Jeff Lyash)
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)
jlhall@southernco.com (Jennifer Hall)
john.simmons@cbi.com (John A. Simmons)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
jpredd@southernco.com (Jason R. Redd)
jranalli@meagpower.org (Jerry Ranalli)
jtgasser@southernco.com (Jeff Gasser)
karen.patterson@ttnus.com (Karen Patterson)
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

kelly.trice@cbi-psg.com (Kelly Price)
ken.hollenbach@cbi.com (Kenneth W. Hollenbach)
kim.haynes@opc.com (Kim Haynes)
kmseiber@southernco.com (Kristin Seibert)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
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)
mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)
mdmeier@southernco.com (Mike Meier)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
Melissa.Smith@Hq.Doe.Gov (Melissa Smith)
michael.annacone@cbi.com (Michael Annacone)
michael.annacone@cbi.com (Michael J. Annacone)
mike.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)
mlgraves@southernco.com (Michelle Graves)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
myox@southernco.com (Mike Yox)
nicholle.burroughs@cbi.com (Nicholle Burroughs)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
NuLaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)
r.joshi15@comcast.net (Ravi Joshi)
randall@nexusamlc.com (Randall Li)
rhenry@ap.org (Ray Henry)
rjarrett@southernco.com (Robyn Jarrett)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
Ronald.Jones@scana.com (Ronald Jones)
russpa@westinghouse.com (Paul Russ)
rwink@ameren.com (Roger Wink)
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
shhuling@southernco.com (Steven Huling)
sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)
sroetger@psc.state.ga.us (Steve Roetger)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
taterrel@southernco.com (Todd Terrell)
Tom.Bilik@nrc.gov (Thomas Bilik)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

virgil.barton@cbi.com (Virgil Barton)
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)
wasparkm@southernco.com (Wesley A. Sparkman)
wayne.marquino@ge.com (Wayne Marquino)
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)
x2gabeck@southernco.com (Gary Becker)