

September 21, 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 15-010), "SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MECHANICAL
COUPLER WELD ACCEPTABILITY" FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC
GENERATING PLANT UNIT 3 (TAC NO. RP9514)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated August 28, 2015, as revised by letter dated September 17, 2015, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 15-010 and PAR-15-010R (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML15240A411 and ML15260B301) 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) 15-010 as supplemented on September 17, 2015 (ADAMS Accession Number ML15233A588 and ML15260B091), SNC will proceed with construction of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Unit 3 seismic Category I and II structures containing mechanical couplers welded to structural steel utilizing combined partial joint penetration weld with fillet weld reinforcement with fillet welds satisfying the minimum size requirements for C2/C3 couplers established by analyses and testing consistent with requested changes in LAR 15-010.

As required by License Condition 2.D.(1) the NRC has received LAR 15-010, as supplemented, and referenced in PAR 15-010, as revised. The staff has evaluated the license amendment documentation supporting LAR 15-010 and has determined that there is sufficient information to accept LAR 15-010 for detailed technical review (ADAMS Accession Number ML15252A434).

The NRC staff has determined that PAR 15-010, as revised, contained sufficient information on the impact of the proposed plant change on associated Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria. In addition, the NRC staff reviewed the scope of PAR 15-010, as revised, and found that it is consistent with the changes from the current licensing basis as requested in LAR 15-010, as supplemented. Therefore, the NRC has no objection to SNC proceeding with the construction of the proposed plant change identified in PAR 15-010, as revised, including concrete fill in Unit 3 structural module CA20, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of LAR 15-010, as supplemented. SNC acknowledges that if LAR 15-010 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 by MDelligatti for/

Francis M. 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,

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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

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(Revised 09/03/2015)

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