



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 12, 2016

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
42 Inverness Center Parkway, B237
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 — ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT NO. 43 AND GRANTING OF EXEMPTION RE: ADDITION OF INSTRUMENTS TO DESIGN RELIABILITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM (D-RAP) (TAC NO. RP9500)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

In response to your application dated October 7, 2014, and supplemented by letter dated September 4, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) has granted the enclosed Exemption and issued the enclosed Amendment No. 43 to Combined Licenses (COL) Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. The amendment consists of changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information, and involves changes related to plant-specific Tier 1 information, with corresponding changes to the associated COL Appendix C information for VEGP Units 3 and 4.

The exemption allows a departure from elements of the certified information in Tier 1 of the AP1000 Certified DCD, as specified in License Amendment Request 14-006. The amendment authorizes changes to the COL by making changes to the control logic for actuation of the startup feedwater pumps to support their defense-in-depth function of core decay heat removal.

B. H. Whitley

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A copy of the related Safety Evaluation, which includes the evaluation of the amendment and exemption, is also enclosed. The notice of issuance of the amendment and the exemption documents included in this letter will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ruth C. Reyes, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

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

Enclosures:

1. Exemption for VEGP Unit 3 COL
2. Exemption for VEGP Unit 4 COL
3. Amendment No. 43 to VEGP Unit 3 COL
4. Amendment No. 43 to VEGP Unit 4 COL
5. Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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/RA/

Ruth C. Reyes, Project Manager
 Licensing Branch 4
 Division of New Reactor Licensing
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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List
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(Revised 12/08/2015)

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