



February 12, 2016

Docket No.: 52-025

ND-16-0149
10 CFR 50.90

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4
Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR):
Use of Localized Shoring for Composite Floors and Roof in the Auxiliary Building (PAR-15-020)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Unit 3 and Unit 4 combined licenses (COLs) (License Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92, respectively) to Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) on February 10, 2012.

By SNC letter, ND-15-2063, dated November 16, 2015 [ADAMS Accession Number ML15320A464], SNC submitted a License Amendment Request (LAR), LAR-15-020, to revise Tier 2* information in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) related to the construction methods used for the composite floors and roof of the auxiliary building.

SNC is submitting a Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR), PAR-15-020, to minimize potential construction delays for Unit 3 during the NRC's evaluation of the related LAR. The determination of whether the NRC has any objection to SNC proceeding with construction based on the proposed plant licensing basis changes identified in the LAR is requested on or before April 11, 2016. Because the concrete placement in the auxiliary building subject to the proposed changes in LAR-15-020 is currently on hold, delayed determination regarding this PAR will result in a potential delay in the construction completion of VEGP Unit 3 structures.

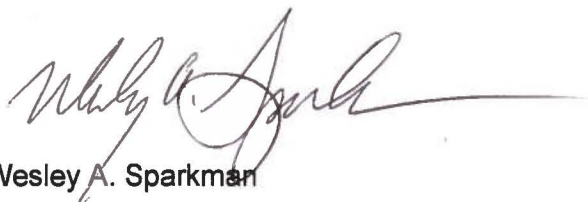
A description of the proposed change and the reason for the change are contained in Enclosure 1 to this letter. This PAR has been developed in accordance with guidance provided in the most recent revision to the Interim Staff Guidance on Changes During Construction Under 10 CFR Part 52, COL-ISG-025 [ML15058A377], and corresponds accurately and technically with the above-mentioned LAR-15-020. The technical scope of this PAR is consistent with the technical scope of the submitted LAR. Section 7 of Enclosure 1 identifies the scope of the "no objection" sought in this PAR.

This letter does not contain any NRC commitments. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Paige Ridgway at (205) 992-7516.

Mr. Wesley A. Sparkman states that: he is the Regulatory Affairs Licensing Manager, Nuclear Development, of Southern Nuclear Operating Company; he is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Company; and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY



Wesley A. Sparkman



WAS/PTR/ljs

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of February, 2016

Notary Public: Lisa Myrick Spears

My commission expires: June 18, 2019

Enclosure: 1) Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Unit 3 – Preliminary Amendment Request Regarding Use of Localized Shoring for Composite Floors and Roof in the Auxiliary Building (PAR-15-020)

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Southern Nuclear Operating Company

ND-16-0149

Enclosure 1

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Unit 3

**Preliminary Amendment Request
Regarding
Use of Localized Shoring for Composite Floors and Roof in the Auxiliary Building
(PAR-15-020)**

(This Enclosure consists of three pages, including this cover page.)

ND-16-0149

Enclosure 1

PAR-15-020: Use of Localized Shoring for Composite Floors and Roof in the Auxiliary Building

Pursuant to 10 CFR 52.98(c) and in accordance with 10 CFR 50.90, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) to change the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4, licensing basis documents associated with Combined License Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92, respectively. Accordingly, SNC requests the determination of whether the NRC has any objection to proceeding with concrete placement for Wall 7.3 on Elevation 82'-6" in the VEGP Unit 3 Auxiliary Building, as identified in the Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) provided below to be provided by the date shown below.

PAR Request Number: <u>SNC-PAR-15-020</u>	Station Name: VEGP	Unit Number(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4	PAR Request Date: <u>February 12, 2016</u>
1. NRC PAR Notification Requested Date (see Block 7 for basis): <u>April 11, 2016</u>			
2. License Amendment Request References (as applicable): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAR submittal date and SNC Correspondence Number: <u>November 16, 2015 / ND-15-2063</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Expected LAR submittal date: _____			
3. Brief Description of Proposed Change: <p>The proposed change would revise the description for the construction of composite steel beam floors and roof of the auxiliary building by clarifying that the statements in Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) Subsection 3H.5.2, which include "Unshored construction is used" and "During concreting, no shoring is provided," apply to beams. Composite floors are reinforced concrete placed on metal decking supported by steel beams. The beams are made composite with the slab through top flange shear studs embedded in the slab. The proposed change is to allow use of shoring for the metal deck in the vicinity of penetrations and other openings and as temporary supports in place of an incomplete wall for both metal decking and the end of beams. UFSAR Subsection 3H.5.2 is designated as Tier 2* information.</p>			
4. Reason for License Amendment Request: <p>This change is driven primarily by a need to revise the description of the construction methods of composite steel beam floors and roof in the auxiliary building in the UFSAR.</p> <p>The changes involve revising information in UFSAR Subsection 3H.5.2 to clarify that the statements about the use of unshored construction refer to the design and construction of the supporting beams and that limited, localized temporary support or shoring of the metal deck at penetrations and other openings in the floor and supporting wall, or at the location of an incomplete wall for both metal decking and the end of beams is acceptable.</p>			
5. Is Exemption Request Required? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, Briefly Describe the Reason for the Exemption. Not Applicable			
6. Identify Applicable Precedents: No precedence identified.			

7. Impact of Change on Installation and Testing Schedules:

SNC's requested date of approval of this license amendment as identified in the referenced LAR is May 7, 2016. This date is based primarily upon the time period required for processing a requested license amendment. The construction activities related to placing concrete for Wall 7.3 in the VEGP Unit 3 auxiliary building are placed in a "construction hold" status.

As such, this PAR requests a "no objection" finding related to this license amendment by the date identified in Block 1 above (or sooner if reasonably achievable) to allow for appropriate notifications and release of concrete placement activities currently under the "construction hold" status to allow construction to continue.

Specifically, SNC requests a "no objection" finding to allow concrete placement for Wall 7.3 on Elevation 82'-6" in the VEGP Unit 3 Auxiliary Building in accordance with the clarified statement regarding shoring in the revised UFSAR descriptions in LAR-15-020.

A "no objection" finding for the above construction activity would release the associated construction holds.

8. Impact of Change on ITAAC: None

9. Additional Information: None