

March 31, 2016

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
42 Inverness Center Parkway, B022  
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 — EXEMPTION  
FROM 10 CFR 55.31(a)(5) (CAC NO. RP9515)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved the enclosed exemption from a requirement of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 55.31(a)(5) with respect to Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4 (VEGP 3 & 4). Specifically, whereas 10 CFR 55.31(a)(5) requires an applicant for an operator or senior operator license to provide evidence that the applicant, as a trainee, has successfully manipulated the controls of either the facility for which the license is sought or a plant-referenced simulator that meets the requirements of 10 CFR 55.46(c), this exemption allows an applicant for a VEGP 3 & 4 operator or senior operator license to provide evidence that the applicant, as a trainee, has successfully manipulated the controls of the VEGP 3 & 4 Commission-approved simulation facility meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 55.46(b). On March 29, 2016, the Commission approved the VEGP 3 & 4 simulation facility under 10 CFR 55.46(b) for use in the administration of operating tests, after finding that the simulation facility and its proposed use are suitable for the conduct of operating tests for the facility licensee's reference plant under 10 CFR 55.45(a) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16070A301).

This exemption is effective upon its publication in the *Federal Register* and expires when a VEGP 3 & 4 plant-referenced simulator that meets the requirements in 10 CFR 55.46(c) is available. Furthermore, this exemption is subject to the condition that the VEGP 3 & 4 Commission-approved simulation facility continues to model the reference plant with sufficient scope and fidelity, in accordance with 10 CFR 55.46(c) and (d).

A copy of the exemption is enclosed. The exemption has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

B. H. Whitley

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Kallan, Senior Project Manager, by phone at (301) 415-2809, or by email at [Paul.Kallan@nrc.gov](mailto:Paul.Kallan@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mark Delligatti, Deputy Director  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-025  
52-026

Enclosure:  
Exemption

cc w/o encl: See next page

B. Whitley

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Kallan, Senior Project Manager, by phone at (301) 415-2809, or by email at [Paul.Kallan@nrc.gov](mailto:Paul.Kallan@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mark Delligatti, Deputy Director  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

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DATE	3/31/16	3/30/16	3/31/16	3/30/16	3/31/16	3/31/16

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(Revised 03/10/2016)

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