

December 22, 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 & 4 – ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENT NO. 61 AND GRANTING OF EXEMPTION RE: CONTAINMENT
HYDROGEN IGNITER CHANGES (LAR 15-003) (CAC NO. RP9506)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted the enclosed Exemption and issued the enclosed Amendment No. 61 to Combined License 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 (UFSAR) 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 Facility Combined License Appendix C information for VEGP Units 3 and 4 in response to your application dated February 6, 2015, and as supplemented by your letter dated September 15, 2015.

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 15-003. The amendment authorizes changes to the VEGP Units 3 and 4 UFSAR 1) to add two additional hydrogen igniters to the in-containment refueling water storage tank roof vents; 2) to remove control of the hydrogen igniters from the protection and safety monitoring system; 3) to clarify the controls available for the hydrogen igniters at the remote shutdown workstation; and 4) to make changes to the design aspects of the hydrogen igniters to maintain consistency within various licensing documents.

B. Whitley

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

Sincerely,

/RA William Gleaves for:/

Chandu Patel, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

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

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 61 to VEGP Unit 3 COL
2. Amendment No. 61 to VEGP Unit 4 COL
3. Exemption for License Amendment No. 61
for VEGP Unit 3 COL
4. Exemption for License Amendment No. 61
for VEGP Unit 4 COL
5. Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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

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/RA William Gleaves for:/

Chandu Patel, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
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(Revised 11/14/2016)

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