

June 24, 2016

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

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 3
REGARDING THE PLANT WALK-THROUGH AND APPROVAL OF ALTERNATE
METHOD (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 55.45(b) with respect to Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Unit 3 (VEGP Unit 3). The NRC staff determined that no exemption to the requirement to use the examination criteria in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" as stated in 10 CFR 55.40(a) and (b), is necessary because NUREG-1021, ES-201, "Initial Operator Licensing Examination Process," Section B, "Background," allows for the consideration of alternatives to its examination criteria. The NRC staff evaluated the alternative described in the letter from Ms. Karen Fili, Site Vice President, VEGP Units 3 and 4, to the NRC dated May 27, 2016, "Southern Nuclear Operating Company Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 Revised Request for Exemption and [Request for Additional Information] RAI Response: Operator Licensing," Reference No. ND-16-0747 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, Accession No. ML16148A484) ("May 27 letter") and finds it acceptable.

Therefore, whereas 10 CFR 55.45(b) requires, in part, that the operating test be administered in a plant walk-through to an applicant for an operator or senior operator license, the exemption allows one, two, or three of the in-plant system job performance measures administered as part of the walk-through portion of the operating test to be administered to applicants for an operator or senior operator license at VEGP Unit 3 using the alternative method described in the May 27 letter.

This exemption is effective immediately and expires when the Commission makes its finding for VEGP Unit 3 in accordance with 10 CFR 52.103(g). Furthermore, for those tasks that are selected to be part of an operating task in accordance with NUREG-1021, ES-301, Section D.4.a and Section D.4.b, where it is possible to both perform on-the-job training in the plant and administer part of an operating test in a plant walk-through, as determined by the NRC examiners, this exemption may not be used.

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

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.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Francis M. Akstulewicz, 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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***via e-mail**

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NAME	PKallan	RButler	MJunge		JDixon-Herrity	FAkstulewicz
DATE	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16

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(Revised 03/10/2016)

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