

June 9, 2016

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S  
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT AND EXEMPTION — COLUMN LINE  
N WALL ITAAC DIMENSION CHANGE FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC  
GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 (CAC NO. RT5002)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated May 17, 2016, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16138A431), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR 16-003) and exemption for the Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. The requested amendment requires changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) in the form of departures from the incorporated plant specific Design Control Document (PS-DCD) Tier 2 information, and involves changes to related Tier 1 information, with corresponding changes to the associated COL Appendix C information. Pursuant to the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 52.63(b)(1), an exemption from elements of the design as certified in the 10 CFR Part 52, Appendix D, design certification rule is also requested for the plant-specific DCD Tier 1 material departures. Specifically, the requested amendment proposes changes to a plant-specific Tier 1 (and COL Appendix C) table and UFSAR text related to changes to the concrete wall thickness tolerance for the column line N wall from column lines 2 to 4 from elevation 100'-0" to 135'-3".

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of the License Amendment Request (LAR). The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical reviews. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with 10 CFR 50.90, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of the 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

B. Whitley

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The NRC staff has reviewed your application against the regulatory requirements and has concluded that it provides sufficient technical detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed changes in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3025 or [Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov](mailto:Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,  
*/RA/*

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

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

B. Whitley

- 2 -

The NRC staff has reviewed your application against the regulatory requirements and has concluded that it provides sufficient technical detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed changes in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3025 or [Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov](mailto:Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,  
*/RA/*

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

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

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(Revised 05/17/2016)

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