



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 23, 2016

Mr. Charles R. Pierce  
Regulatory Affairs Director  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1295 / Bin 038  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 – ACCEPTANCE REVIEW REGARDING REACTOR VESSEL THREADS IN FLANGE EXAMINATION (CAC NOS. MF8061, MF8062, AND MF8070)

Dear Mr. Pierce:

By letters dated June 28, 2016, and June 30, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Nos. ML16180A046 and ML16182A475, respectively), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) proposed alternatives for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, and Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. Section 50.55a(z)(1) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed alternative would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. SNC proposes to eliminate the reactor pressure vessel threads in flange examination requirement for the remainder of the inservice inspection intervals. By letter dated July 26, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16204A042), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff requested additional information to enable the continuation of its review. SNC responded by letter dated August 4, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16221A066).

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of SNC's proposal. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to continue its detailed technical review. 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.

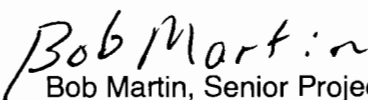
The NRC staff has reviewed SNC's proposal, as revised, and concludes that it provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to continue its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed requests in terms of regulatory 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 in requests for additional

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information, 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.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Martin, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425, and 50-348

Enclosure:  
Supplemental Information Needed

cc w/enclosure: Distribution via Listserv

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- 2 -

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*/RA/*

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML16224A143**

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