

September 20, 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 (LAR 16-024) FOR THE VOGTLE  
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: COLUMN LINE 7.3  
WALL REINFORCEMENT AREA CHANGE (CAC NO. RP9542)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated September 13, 2016, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16257A711), Southern Nuclear Operating Company submitted a license amendment request (LAR 16-024) 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 to depart from the provided minimum reinforcement area in the column line 7.3 wall from elevation 82'-6" to elevation 100'-0".

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of the 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 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.

Consistent with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 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.

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

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  
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 Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
 52-026

cc: See next page

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NRO-008

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Revised (09/19/2016)

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