

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Williams, Shawn
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 1:55 PM
To: WASPARKM@southernco.com
Cc: ACCHAMBE@southernco.com; X2NHAGGE@SOUTHERNCO.COM; Redd, Jason P.; Patel, Chandu
Subject: Acceptance Review - Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4, LAR 16-016: Nondestructive Examination for Welds of Couplers to Stainless Steel Embedment Plates (CAC No. RP9535)

Mr. Sparkman,

By letter dated August 29, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16242A399), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a license amendment to Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. The amendment request consist of changes to Tier 2* information in the UFSAR (which includes the plant-specific DCD information) to clarify how the quality and strength of a specific set of couplers welded to stainless steel embedment plates, already installed and embedded in concrete, is demonstrated through visual examination and static tension testing, in lieu of the nondestructive examination requirements of American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) N690.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of these requests. 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 Section 50.90 of the 10 CFR, 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 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 and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability, of the proposed amendment and exemption, 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) 415-1009.

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

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