

January 12, 2017

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S
LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 PRESSURIZER SURGE LINE THERMAL
STRATIFICATION TEST (CAC NO. RP9537)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated August 31, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16244A253), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a license amendment request (LAR 16-011) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The proposed LAR would change the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information and a combined license condition which references one of the proposed changes.

The proposed changes to the UFSAR eliminate pressurizer spray line monitoring during pressurizer surge line first plant only testing. In addition, these proposed changes correct inconsistencies in testing purpose, testing duration, and the ability to leave equipment in place following the data collection period. These changes involve material which is specifically referenced in Section 2.D. (2) of the combined licenses (COLs).

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and following 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 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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 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 Senior Project Manager, Peter Hearn, at (301) 415-1189 or Peter.Hearn@NRC.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Peter Hearn, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s): 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

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 the Senior Project Manager, Peter Hearn, at (301) 415-1189 or Peter.Hearn@NRC.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Peter Hearn, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4 (LB4)
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s): 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

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NRO-008

OFFICE	DNRL/LB4:LA	DNRL/LB4: PM	DNRL/LB4:BC
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DATE	1/4/16	1/12/17	1/12/17

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(Revised 11/14/2016)

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