

February 27, 2017

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
42 Inverness Center Parkway, B022  
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 — ISSUANCE OF  
AMENDMENT AND GRANTING OF EXEMPTION RE: PASSIVE CORE  
COOLING SYSTEM (PXS) CONDENSATE RETURN (LAR 16-026) (CAC NO.  
RP9604)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

In response to your application dated November 4, 2016, and as supplemented November 16, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted the enclosed Exemption and issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 72 and 71 to Combined License (COL) Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively.

The amendment authorizes changes to the VEGP Units 3 and 4 Updated Final Safety Analysis Report in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document Tier 2 information and involves changes to COL Appendix A, Technical Specifications, and COL Appendix C, Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria. The amendments authorize changes to the licensing basis information to reflect an increase in the efficiency of the return of condensate utilized by the passive core cooling system to the in-containment refueling water storage tank to support the capability for long-term cooling.

The exemption is related to, and necessary for the granting of the license amendment, which is being issued concurrently with this exemption.

B. Whitley

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A copy of the related Safety Evaluation, which includes the evaluation of the amendment is enclosed. The notice of issuance of the amendment and the documents included in this letter will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ruth C. Reyes, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 72 to VEGP Unit 3 COL
2. Amendment No. 71 to VEGP Unit 4 COL
3. Exemption for Unit 3 COL
4. Exemption for Unit 4 COL
5. Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 — ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT AND GRANTING OF EXEMPTION RE: PASSIVE CORE COOLING SYSTEM (PXS) CONDENSATE RETURN (LAR 16-026) (CAC NO. RP9604) DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2017

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B. Whitley

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 02/07/2017)

cc:

Office of the Attorney General  
40 Capitol Square, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Resident Inspector  
Plant Vogtle 3&4  
8805 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Resident Manager  
Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant  
7821 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Barty Simonton  
Team Leader  
Environmental Radiation Program  
Air Protection Branch  
Environmental Protection Division  
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120  
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

Southern Nuclear Op. Co.  
Document Control Coordinator  
42 Inverness Center parkway  
Attn: B236  
Birmingham, AL 35242

Gene Stilp  
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Anne F. Appleby  
Oglethorpe Power Corporation  
2100 East Exchange Place  
Tucker, GA 30084

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney  
IBEX ESI  
4641 Montgomery Avenue  
Suite 350  
Bethesda, MD 20814

County Commissioner  
Office of the County Commissioner  
Burke County Commission  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

George B. Taylor, Jr.  
2100 East Exchange PI  
Atlanta, GA 30084-5336

Mr. Wayne Guilfoyle  
Commissioner  
District 8  
Augusta-Richmond County Commission  
4940 Windsor Spring Rd  
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Brian H. Whitley  
Director Regulatory Affairs  
42 Inverness Center Parkway  
BIN B237  
Birmingham, AL 35242

Gwendolyn Jackson  
Burke County Library  
130 Highway 24 South  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Reece McAlister  
Executive Secretary  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
Atlanta, GA 30334

## Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

### Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)  
ALPUGH@southernco.com (Amanda Pugh)  
annacom@westinghouse.com (Michael J. Annacone)  
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)  
Bartley.Higgins@hq.doe.gov (Bartley Higgins)  
becky@georgiawand.org (Becky Rafter)  
bhwhitley@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)  
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)  
bjadams@southernco.com (Brad Adams)  
burrouno@westinghouse.com (Nicholle Burroughs)  
castelca@westinghouse.com (Curtis Castell)  
comerj@westinghouse.com (James Comer)  
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)  
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)  
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)  
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)  
dgbost@southernco.com (Danny Bost)  
difulton@southernco.com (Dale Fulton)  
drculver@southernco.com (Randy Culver)  
durhamdc@westinghouse.com (David Durham)  
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)  
edavis@pegasusgroup.us (Ed David)  
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)  
fdhundle@southernco.com (Forrest Hundley)  
G2NDRMDC@southernco.com (SNC Document Control)  
gfhwillis@southernco.com (Frederick Willis)  
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)  
jannina.blanco@pillsburylaw.com (Jannina Blanco)  
jantol1dj@westinghouse.com (David Jantosik)  
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)  
JHaswell@southernco.com (JHaswell)  
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)  
John.Bozga@nrc.gov (John Bozga)  
Joseph\_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)  
jpredd@southernco.com (Jason R. Redd)  
jranalli@meagpower.org (Jerry Ranalli)  
karen.patterson@ttnus.com (Karen Patterson)  
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)  
kdfili@southernco.com (Karen Fili)  
kim.haynes@opc.com (Kim Haynes)  
kmseiber@southernco.com (Kristin Seibert)  
kmstacy@southernco.com (Kara Stacy)  
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)  
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)

## Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)  
markus.popa@hq.doe.gov (Markus Popa)  
mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)  
mdmeier@southernco.com (Mike Meier)  
mdrauckh@southernco.com (Mark Rauckhorst)  
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)  
Melissa.Smith@Hq.Doe.Gov (Melissa Smith)  
Michael.Kuca@hq.doe.gov (Michael Kuca)  
mike.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)  
mlgraves@southernco.com (Michelle Graves)  
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)  
myox@southernco.com (Mike Yox)  
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)  
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)  
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)  
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)  
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)  
r.joshi15@comcast.net (Ravi Joshi)  
randall@nexusamllc.com (Randall Li)  
rjarrett@southernco.com (Robyn Jarrett)  
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)  
Ronald.Jones@scana.com (Ronald Jones)  
russpa@westinghouse.com (Paul Russ)  
rwink@ameren.com (Roger Wink)  
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)  
sara@cleanenergy.org (Sara Barczak)  
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)  
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)  
Shiva.Granmayeh@hq.doe.gov (Shiva Granmayeh)  
sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)  
skauffman@mpr.com (Storm Kauffman)  
sroetger@psc.state.ga.us (Steve Roetger)  
taterrel@southernco.com (Todd Terrell)  
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov (Tom Miller)  
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)  
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)  
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)  
wasparkm@southernco.com (Wesley A. Sparkman)  
wayne.marquino@ge.com (Wayne Marquino)  
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)  
x2gabeck@southernco.com (Gary Becker)