

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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(Revised 02/07/2017)

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