

April 17, 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 – ALTERNATIVE TO TITLE 10 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, SECTION 50.55a REGARDING PRESERVICE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STEAM GENERATOR NOZZLE TO REACTOR COOLANT PUMP CASING WELDS (CAC NO. RP9529)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated June 24, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16176A312), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., (SNC or the licensee) submitted Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 - Request for Alternative: Preservice Inspection Requirements for Steam Generator Nozzle to Reactor Coolant Pump Casing Welds (VEGP 3&4-PSI-ALT-05) to the regulations for VEGP Units 3 and 4 pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(z)(1). The requested alternative would allow the licensee to use requirements of the 2013 Edition of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Section XI for the inspection of welds joining the AP1000 steam generator nozzle to the reactor coolant pump casing. The proposed alternative would allow the licensee to examine the aforementioned welds using the requirements of the 2013 Edition of ASME Section XI prior to initial plant startup.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes that the licensee has demonstrated that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the NRC staff may authorize the proposed alternative pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1) for VEGP Units 3 and 4.

B. Whitley

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If you have any questions, please contact Chandu Patel, Project Manager at (301) 415-3025 or [Chandu.Patel@NRC.gov](mailto:Chandu.Patel@NRC.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, Chief  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:  
Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 – ALTERNATIVE TO TITLE 10 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, SECTION 50.55a REGARDING PRESERVICE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STEAM GENERATOR NOZZLE TO REACTOR COOLANT PUMP CASING WELDS (CAC NO. RP9529) DATED APRIL 17, 2017.

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 03/13/2017)

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)  
dlfulton@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@gmail.com (Wayne Marquino)  
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)  
x2gabeck@southernco.com (Gary Becker)