

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Hall, Randy
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Ken McElroy
Cc: Joyce, Ryan M. (RMJOYCE@southernco.com); jjhutto@southernco.com
Subject: Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 – Acceptance of Amendment Request to Adopt TSTF-542, “Reactor Pressure Vessel Water Inventory Control” (CAC Nos. MF9662 and MF9663)

May 18, 2017

Mr. G. Ken McElroy
Licensing Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Dear Ken,

By letter dated April 20, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17114A377), the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC, the licensee) submitted a license amendment request for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (HNP). The proposed amendment would replace existing HNP Technical Specifications (TS) requirements related to “operations with a potential for draining the reactor vessel” with new requirements on reactor pressure vessel water inventory control to protect Safety Limit 2.1.1.3. Safety Limit 2.1.1.3 requires reactor vessel water level to be greater than the top of active irradiated fuel. The proposed amendment would incorporate changes to the HNP TS similar to those addressed in Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) traveler TSTF-542, “Reactor Pressure Vessel Water Inventory Control.”

The purpose of this email is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff’s acceptance review of this amendment request. 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 review. 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.

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 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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 550 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 9 months, which is January 31, 2018. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff’s initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-4032.

Sincerely,

Randy Hall, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
USNRC
(301) 415-4032
Randy.Hall@nrc.gov

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Recipients:

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Tracking Status: None

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