

NRR-PMDAPem Resource

From: Hall, Randy
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 11:15 AM
To: Ken McElroy
Cc: Joyce, Ryan M. (RMJOYCE@southernco.com); jjhutto@southernco.com
Subject: Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 - Acceptance for Review of Request for Alternative HNP-ISI-ALT-05-06 (CAC Nos. MF9851 and MF9852)

July 14, 2017

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

Dear Ken,

By letter dated June 5, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17156A831), the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC, the licensee) submitted two requests for alternatives to the ASME Code requirements for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (HNP). The first alternative request identified in that letter, HNP-ISI-ALT-05-05, is being reviewed separately by the NRC staff (under CAC Nos. MF9812 and MF9813), and will be addressed in separate correspondence.

The second alternative request, HNP-ISI-ALT-05-06, would allow SNC to implement an alternative to the system leakage testing of mechanical joints following repair or replacement activities as required by ASME Section XI, 2007 Edition with the 2008 Addenda, IWB-5221. SNC proposes to perform the system leakage test and associated VT-2 examination following repair/replacement activities on those components that cannot be isolated in accordance with Code Case N-795, while using longer hold times than specified in the code case. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(2), SNC is requesting NRC authorization of this alternative on the basis that compliance with the specified requirements would result in a hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

The purpose of this email is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this request for alternative to the ASME Code requirements. 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 alternative 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 130 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review within 12 months, which is consistent with your requested approval date of May 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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Created By: Randy.Hall@nrc.gov

Recipients:

"Joyce, Ryan M. (RMJOYCE@southernco.com)" <RMJOYCE@southernco.com>
Tracking Status: None
"jjhutto@southernco.com" <jjhutto@southernco.com>
Tracking Status: None
"Ken McElroy" <gkmcelro@southernco.com>
Tracking Status: None

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