



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 25, 2017

Mr. C. R. Pierce
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295 / Bin 038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED PLANT-SPECIFIC TECHNICAL REPORT REVIEW RE: SYSTEMATIC RISK-INFORMED ASSESSMENT OF DEBRIS (CAC NOS. MF9685 and MF9686)

Dear Mr. Pierce:

By letter dated April 21, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17116A098) as supplemented by letter dated July 11, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17192A245), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. submitted a plant-specific technical report for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 and requested U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval of the methods and inputs described in the technical report. The plant-specific technical report contains:

- Plant-specific conditions and models related to Generic Safety Issue 191, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors,"
- Risk quantification and plant-specific probabilistic risk assessment model, and
- Defense-in-depth and safety margin evaluations.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this technical report. 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 NRC staff has reviewed your submittal 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 methods and inputs for use in subsequent licensing requests. 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. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this review will take approximately 2100 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review by June 13, 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. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please, contact Mr. Michael Marshall at (301) 415-2871 or via email at Michael.Marshall@nrc.gov or contact me at (301) 415-3229 or Michael.Orenak@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Orenak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Michael Orenak, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

cc: Distribution via Listserv

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