

## Vogle PEmails

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**From:** Patel, Chandu  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 08, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** Vogle PEmails  
**Subject:** Acceptance Letter for LAR 17-027 for Vogle 3 and 4  
**Attachments:** Acceptance Letter 17-027.docx

**Hearing Identifier:** Vogtle\_COL\_Docs\_Public  
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**Subject:** Acceptance Letter for LAR 17-027 for Vogtle 3 and 4  
**Sent Date:** 11/8/2017 11:20:13 AM  
**Received Date:** 11/8/2017 11:20:14 AM  
**From:** Patel, Chandu

**Created By:** Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov

**Recipients:**  
"Vogtle PEmails" <Vogtle.PEmails@nrc.gov>  
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MESSAGE	3	11/8/2017 11:20:14 AM
Acceptance Letter 17-027.docx	29482	

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**Priority:** Standard  
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**Reply Requested:** No  
**Sensitivity:** Normal  
**Expiration Date:**  
**Recipients Received:**

November 8, 2017

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
42 Inverness Center Parkway  
BIN B237  
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 17-027) AND EXEMPTION FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM VACUUM FILL AND INSPECTIONS, TESTS, ANALYSES, AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR CONTAINMENT FLOODUP (CAC NO. RP9702)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated September 25, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17268A188, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a license amendment and an exemption to Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4, respectively. The requested amendment proposes changes to COL Appendix A, Technical Specifications (TS) and plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information and departures from plant-specific Tier 1 information (and associated COL Appendix C information).

Specifically, the requested amendment proposes changes to TS to allow Reactor Coolant System (RCS) vacuum fill operations in cold shutdown (i.e., MODE 5) conditions, and conforming consistency changes to plant-specific DCD information in the form of departures from DCD Tier 2 information, as incorporated into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). Other proposed TS changes address corrections to TS Actions and Applicability for consistency within the TS

Additionally, the requested amendment proposes to depart from plant-specific AP1000 DCD Tier 2 information, as incorporated into the UFSAR, and also involves departure from Tier 1 Design Descriptions and Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) related to inspecting the volume in the containment that allows for floodup to support long-term core cooling for postulated loss-of-coolant accidents (LOCAs).

SNC has also requested an exemption from the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, Appendix D, Section III.B, "Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design, Scope and Contents," to allow a departure from the elements of the certification information in Tier 1 of the generic Design Control Document.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of these requests. 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 reviews. 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.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of the 10 CFR, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of the 10 CFR addresses content of technical information required.

This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

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 and exemption, 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. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

SNC has requested NRC staff approval of this LAR by March 30, 2018. The staff will attempt to support that date but it will depend on whether supplements to your request are needed. If the change is needed to support construction, please consider submitting a Preliminary Amendment Request.

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

Sincerely,

*R/A*

Chandu Patel, Senior Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s): 52-025  
52-026