

January 22, 2018

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 AND EXEMPTION FOR
THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4:
ITAAC FOR PNEUMATIC TESTING OF VES AIR LINES (LAR 17-044)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated December 20, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17354964), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted a request for a License Amendment (LAR 17-044) for the Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively.

The requested amendment proposes changes to COL Appendix C (and to plant-specific Tier 1 information) and associated Tier 2 information to allow a pneumatic test to be used in lieu of a hydrostatic test for the Main Control Room Emergency Habitability System (VES) consistent with American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Section III.

The purpose of this letter 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.

Consistent with 10 CFR 50.90, 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 the 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 against the regulatory requirements and has concluded that it provides 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. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3863 or Manny.Comar@nrc.gov

Sincerely,

/RA/

Manny Comar, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT AND EXEMPTION FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4: ITAAC FOR PNEUMATIC TESTING OF VES AIR LINES (LAR 17-044) DATED JANUARY 22, 2018.

ADAMS Accession No.: ML18022B114

***via email**

NRO-002

OFFICE	PM: NRO/DNRL/LB4	LA: NRO/DNRL/LB4*
NAME	MComar	RButler
DATE	1/22/18	1/22/18

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