

January 31, 2018

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S  
LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC  
GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: TIER 1 AND TIER 2\* EDITORIAL AND  
CONSISTENCY CHANGES (LAR 17-042)

Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated November 30, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17334B211), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted a license amendment which involves editorial changes to promote consistency within the information presented in combined license (COL) Appendix C (and plant-specific Tier 1) and the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR).

The requested amendment includes changes to the UFSAR in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2\* and Tier 2 information and related changes to the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4 COL, Appendix C (and corresponding plant-specific DCD Tier 1) information. Pursuant to the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 52.63(b)(1), an exemption from elements of the design as certified in the 10 CFR Part 52, Appendix D, "Design Certification Rule" is also requested for the plant-specific Tier 1 material departures.

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 Section 50.90 of the 10 CFR, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and following 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 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 November 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 (PAR).

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Project Manager, Peter Hearn, at (301) 415-1189 or [Peter.Hearn@NRC.gov](mailto:Peter.Hearn@NRC.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Peter Hearn Senior, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4 (LB4)  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

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(Revised 01/09/2018)

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