

Vogtle PEmails

From: Hoellman, Jordan
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Vogtle PEmails
Cc: Patel, Chandu
Subject: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SNC'S REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT AND EXEMPTION FOR VEGP, UNITS 3&4: CHANGES TO THE BUILDING GAP BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR ISLAND AND ADJACENT BUILDINGS (LAR 18-002) (EPID L-2018-LLA-0025)

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: CHANGES TO THE BUILDING GAP BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR ISLAND AND ADJACENT BUILDINGS (LAR 18-002) (EPID L-2018-LLA-0025)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated February 1, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18032A359), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a License Amendment and Exemption (LAR 18-002) 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 relax the minimum gap requirement above grade between the nuclear island and the annex building/turbine building and removing the minimum gap requirement for the radwaste building from the Inspections, Tests, Analyses and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC).

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 AP1000 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 this LAR. 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 Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 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. 10 CFR 52.79 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.

SNC has requested NRC staff approval of this LAR by August 3, 2018. The staff will attempt to support that date, but it will depend on whether supplements to your request are needed. By letter dated February 1, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18032A615), SNC has submitted Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 18-002 to minimize construction delays for VEGP Units 3 and 4 during the staff's evaluation of this LAR. The staff is evaluating whether there is any objection to SNC proceeding with construction based on the proposed licensing basis changes identified in LAR 18-002.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-5481 or Jordan.Hoellman2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jordan Hoellman, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

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52-026

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From: Hoellman, Jordan

Created By: Jordan.Hoellman2@nrc.gov

Recipients:

"Patel, Chandu" <Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov>

Tracking Status: None

"Vogtle PEmails" <Vogtle.PEmails@nrc.gov>

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