



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

February 26, 2018

Wesley A. Sparkman, Licensing Manager
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 (LAR 18-003): CHANGE TO BATTERY
CHARGER AMP OUTPUT VALUE IN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SR 3.8.1.2
AND THE SURVEILLANCE FREQUENCY FOR SR 3.8.7.6

Mr. Sparkman:

By letter dated January 31, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML18031B181), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) 18-003 to depart from the approved Combined License (COL) Appendix A, Technical Specifications. The proposed changes revise COL Appendix A, Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.8.1.2 to identify that the required minimum amperage for battery chargers is 150 amps. Additionally, the proposed changes revise COL Appendix A, SR 3.8.7.6 to align the test frequency with the expected life of the AP1000 Class 1E batteries.

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 Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (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 July 31, 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.

Sincerely

/RA/

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

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

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 AMP OUTPUT VALUE IN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION SR 3.8.1.2 AND THE
 SURVEILLANCE FREQUENCY FOR SR 3.8.7.6 (LAR 18-003)
 DATED FEBRUARY 26, 2018

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cc:

(Revised 01/29/2018)

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Document Control Coordinator
42 Inverness Center Parkway, Bin 237
Birmingham, AL 35242

Mr. Barty Simonton
Team Leader
Environmental Radiation Program
Air Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Division
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

Office of the Attorney General
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

George B. Taylor, Jr.
2100 East Exchange Pl
Atlanta, GA 30084-5336

Resident Manager
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant
7821 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

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

Anne F. Appleby
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
Tucker, GA 30084

Mr. Michael Yox
Site Regulatory Affairs Director
Vogtle Units 3 & 4
7825 River Road, Bin 63031
Waynesboro, GA 30830

County Commissioner
Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Wayne Guilfoyle
Commissioner District 8
Augusta-Richmond County Commission
4940 Windsor Spring Rd
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Gwendolyn Jackson
Burke County Library
130 Highway 24 South
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
Atlanta, GA 30334

Resident Inspector
Vogtle Plant Units 3 & 4
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Email

acchambe@southernco.com (Amy Chamberlian)
agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
ALPUGH@southernco.com (Amanda Pugh)
annacom@westinghouse.com (Michael J. Annacone)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
becky@georgiawand.org (Becky Rafter)
bhwhitley@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
bjadams@southernco.com (Brad Adams)
bwwaites@southernco.com (Brandon Waites)
castelca@westinghouse.com (Curtis Castell)
comerj@westinghouse.com (James Comer)
crenshjw@westinghouse.com (John Crenshaw)
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
dgbost@southernco.com (Danny Bost)
dfulton@southernco.com (Dale Fulton)
drculver@southernco.com (Randy Culver)
durhamdc@westinghouse.com (David Durham)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
edavis@pegasusgroup.us (Ed David)
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)
fdhundle@southernco.com (Forrest Hundley)
fhwillis@southernco.com (Fred Willis)
G2NDRMDC@southernco.com (SNC Document Control)
graysw@westinghouse.com (Scott W. Gray)
jadwilli@southernco.com (J.D. Williams)
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)
jannina.blanco@pillsburylaw.com (Jannina Blanco)
jantol1dj@westinghouse.com (David Jantosik)
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)
JHaswell@southernco.com (Jeremiah Haswell)
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)
John.Bozga@nrc.gov (John Bozga)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
jpredd@southernco.com (Jason R. Redd)
jranalli@meagpower.org (Jerry Ranalli)
jtgasser@southernco.com (Jeff Gasser)
karen.patterson@ttnus.com (Karen Patterson)
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)
kdfili@southernco.com (Karen Fili)

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

kmstacy@southernco.com (Kara Stacy)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
markus.popa@hq.doe.gov (Markus Popa)
mdmeier@southernco.com (Mike Meier)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
Melissa.Smith@Hq.Doe.Gov (Melissa Smith)
Michael.Kuca@hq.doe.gov (Michael Kuca)
mike.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)
mlgraves@southernco.com (Michelle Graves)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
myox@southernco.com (Mike Yox)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)
r.joshi15@comcast.net (Ravi Joshi)
rjarrett@southernco.com (Robyn Jarrett)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
Ronald.Jones@scana.com (Ronald Jones)
rwink@ameren.com (Roger Wink)
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sara@cleanenergy.org (Sara Barczak)
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)
Shiva.Granmayeh@hq.doe.gov (Shiva Granmayeh)
sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)
skauffman@mpr.com (Storm Kauffman)
sroetger@psc.state.ga.us (Steve Roetger)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
stephen.burdick@morganlewis.com (Stephen Burdick)
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov (Tom Miller)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)
vcsummer2n3@gmail.com (Brian McIntyre)
wasparkm@southernco.com (Wesley A. Sparkman)
wayne.marquino@gmail.com (Wayne Marquino)
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)
x2gabeck@southernco.com (Gary Becker)
x2kmseib@southernco.com (Kristin Seibert)