



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

March 5, 2018

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
42 Inverness Center Parkway, B022
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 – REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE: ELIMINATION OF EXTERNAL SURFACE DEFECTS ON CLASS 1, 2, AND 3 PIPING, PUMPS, OR VALVES AFTER COMPONENT STAMPING AND PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THE N-3 DATA REPORT (VEGP 3&4-PSI/ISI-ALT-09) (EPID L-2017-LLR-0126)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated October 24, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17297B863), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., (SNC) submitted an alternative for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 – Request for Alternative: Elimination of External Surface Defects on Class 1, 2, and 3 Piping, Pumps, or Valves After Component Stamping and Prior to Completion of the N-3 Data Report (VEGP 3&4-PSI/ISI-ALT-09) to the regulations for VEGP Units 3 and 4 pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(z)(1). The requested alternative would allow N or NA Certificate Holders to remove external defects for Class 1, 2, and 3 piping, pumps, or valves after component stamping and prior to completion of the N-3 Data Report. The proposed alternative would allow the N or NA Certificate Holder to remove external defects from these components prior to the completion of the N-3 Data report.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes that SNC has demonstrated that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the NRC staff may authorize the proposed alternative pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1) for VEGP Units 3 and 4.

B. Whitley

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 – REQUEST FOR
 ALTERNATIVE: ELIMINATION OF EXTERNAL SURFACE DEFECTS ON CLASS 1, 2, AND 3
 PIPING, PUMPS, OR VALVES AFTER COMPONENT STAMPING AND PRIOR TO
 COMPLETION OF THE N-3 DATA REPORT (EPID L-2017-LLR-0126)
 DATED MARCH 5, 2018

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NRO-008

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List
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(Revised 01/29/2018)

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