



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

March 20, 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 UNDER TITLE 10 OF THE *CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS*, SECTION 50.55a(z)(1): COUNTERBORING OF CLASS 1 PIPING, COMPONENTS, AND FITTINGS WITH WELD END TRANSITIONS (PSI-ALT-08)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated October 20, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17293A352), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., (SNC or the licensee) submitted Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 - Request for Alternative: Counterboring of Class 1 Piping, Components, and Fittings with Weld End Transitions (PSI-ALT-08) 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 the licensee to use alternative weld joint configurations for welds subject to preservice inspections as long as it is applied under specific conditions.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes that the licensee has demonstrated that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the NRC staff authorizes 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 Donald Habib, Project Manager at (301) 415-1035 or Donald.Habib@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 UNDER TITLE 10 OF THE *CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS*, SECTION 50.55a(z)(1): COUNTERBORING OF CLASS 1 PIPING, COMPONENTS, AND FITTINGS WITH WELD END TRANSITIONS (PSI-ALT-08), DATED: 3/20/2018

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(Revised 03/13/2017)

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