



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

March 27, 2018

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4: CONTAINMENT PRESSURE
ANALYSIS (LAR-17-043) (EPID L-2018-LLA-0005)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated December 21, 2017, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18029A247), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a License Amendment (LAR) 17-043 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 the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (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 VEGP Units 3 and 4 COL Appendix A, Technical Specifications, and COL Appendix C, Inspections Tests Analyses and Acceptance Criteria (and corresponding changes to plant-specific Tier 1 information). Specifically, the requested amendment involves changes proposed in the previously mention COL and UFSAR to incorporate the results of the updated plant-specific containment integrity analyses. In addition, changes are proposed to Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria related to the flow rate testing of the passive containment cooling system in order to capture lessons learned from preoperational testing performed at China's Sanmen Unit 1. The LAR also requested, pursuant to the provisions of 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 for the corresponding 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 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 February 21, 2019. The staff will attempt to support that date, but due to the extremely large size of this LAR and its complexity, we may not be able to support your requested date. If the change is needed sooner than that date to support construction, please consider submitting a request for a Preliminary Amendment Request.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-5848 or Bill.Gleaves@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William (Billy) Gleaves, Sr. 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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(EPID L-2018-LLA-0005) DATED MARCH 27, 2018

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NRO-008

OFFICE	DNRL/LB4:PM	DNRL/LB4:LA	DNRL/LB4:BC	DNRL/LB4:PM
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DATE	3/27/18	3/26/18	3/27/18	3/26/18

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 03/13/2018)

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