



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

November 20, 2018

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
3535 Colonnade Parkway, Bin N-226-EC
Birmingham, AL 35243

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 — REQUEST
FOR ALTERNATIVE: ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESERVICE
EXAMINATION VOLUMETRIC SURFACE CONFIGURATION
REQUIREMENTS (VEGP 3 & 4-PSI/ISI-ALT-10) (EPID NO. L-2018-LLA-0108)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated July 26, 2018, as revised by letter dated August 30, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML18207A736 and ML18242A431), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), requested U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval of an alternative, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(z), to the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section III, Subsubparagraph NB-4424.2(a) for the preservice inspection at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The proposed alternative would allow SNC to use alternative surface configurations that will not meet the surface finish distance requirements in ASME Code, Section III, Subsubparagraph NB-4424.2(a) and Figures NB-4250-2 and NB-4250-3 for ASME Code Class 1 piping and component welds subject to preservice ultrasonic examination.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes, as set forth in the enclosed Safety Evaluation that SNC has adequately 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.

The details of the alternative to the ASME Code requirements are contained in this letter and enclosed Safety Evaluation.

B. Whitley

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If you have any questions, please contact Peter Hearn, Senior Project Manager at (301) 415-1189 or Peter.Hearn@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer L. Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Licensing Branch 4
Division of Licensing, Siting,
and Environmental Analysis
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

Enclosures:
Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 08/16/2018)

cc:

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

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

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

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

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Document Control Coordinator Bin N-226-EC
3535 Colonnade Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35243

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

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

Brian H. Whitley
3535 Colonnade Parkway, Bin N-226-EC
42 Inverness Center Parkway, BIN B237
Birmingham, AL 35243

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

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

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Email

acchambe@southernco.com (Amy Chamberlian)
agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
ALPUGH@southernco.com (Amanda Pugh)
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)
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)
dlfulton@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)
karen.patterson@ttnus.com (Karen Patterson)
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)
kmstacy@southernco.com (Kara Stacy)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
markus.popa@hq.doe.gov (Markus Popa)

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Matthew.Williams@hq.doe.gov (Matthew Williams)
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)
MKWASHIN@southernco.com (MKWashington)
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)
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)