



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

April 9, 2019

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

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 — ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS, GRANTING OF EXEMPTIONS, AND AUTHORIZATION OF ALTERNATIVE RE: CLARIFICATION OF ASME CODE SECTION III COMPLIANCE AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ASME SECTION III PRESSURE TESTS CONDUCTED FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF ASME SECTION III CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES (LAR 18-031 and VEGP 3&4-PSI/ISI-ALT-12) (EPID L-2018-LLA-0497)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

In response to your application dated November 29, 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has granted the enclosed Exemptions and issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 157 and 155 to Combined License (COL) Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. The amendment consists of changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) plant-specific Tier 1 information with corresponding changes to Appendix C of the facility COLs.

The amendments authorize changes to the VEGP Units 3 and 4 UFSAR in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (PS-DCD). The changes clarify that when the Design Commitment or ITAAC provides that an item or activity must comply with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel (ASME) Code, Section III, this means compliance with the ASME Code Section III, as incorporated by reference in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a with specific conditions, or in accordance with alternatives authorized by the NRC pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a. The exemptions allow changes that impact Tier 1 of the PS-DCD and Appendix C of the facility COLs as specified in License Amendment Request (LAR) 18-031 and VEGP 3&4-PSI/ISI-ALT-12. These exemptions are related to, and necessary for, the granting of the amendments which are being issued concurrently.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject alternative request and concludes that the licensee 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.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation, which includes the evaluation of the amendments, exemptions, and alternative request, is also enclosed. The notice of issuance of the amendment and exemption documents included in this letter will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Sincerely,

***/RA Jennifer Dixon-Herrity for/***

Donald Habib, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 2  
Division of Licensing, Siting, and  
Environmental Analysis  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

Enclosures:

1. Exemption for License Amendment No. 157  
to VEGP Unit 3 COL
2. Exemption for License Amendment No. 155  
to VEGP Unit 4 COL
3. Amendment No. 157 to VEGP Unit 3 COL
4. Amendment No. 155 to VEGP Unit 4 COL
5. Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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