



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

March 26, 2019

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 REQUIREMENT FOR PRESERVICE
TESTING OF EXPLOSIVELY ACTIVATED VALVES (VEGP 3 & 4-PST-ALT-01)
(EPID NO. L-2018-LLA-0498)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated November 29, 2018, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18333A356), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted an alternative for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that would allow SNC to use an alternative to the testing of charges associated with explosively actuated valves.

Specifically, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), the licensee proposes to allow an alternative to specific provisions of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) OM Code as incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," in request PST-ALT-01 on the basis that the alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety pursuant to subparagraph (1), "Acceptable level of quality and safety and standards requirements," of 10 CFR 50.55a.

Pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1), the licensee requested to use an alternative on the basis that complying with the specified requirement would result in hardship without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

The staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes, as set forth in the enclosed safety evaluation, that SNC has adequately demonstrated the compliance with the specified requirements of the ASME OM Code, therefore, the 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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The details of the alternative to the ASME OM Code requirements are contained in the Enclosure of this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Peter C. Hearn, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 2
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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(Revised 08/16/2018)

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