



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

May 28, 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 — REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE: ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENT FOR PRESERVICE TESTING OF CLASS 1 SAFETY VALVES (VEGP 3 & 4-PST-ALT-02) (EPID L-2019-LLR-0025)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated March 5, 2019, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19064B385), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted an alternative for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that would allow SNC to use an alternative to the preservice testing of Class 1 Safety Valves.

Specifically, SNC requested to implement a proposed alternative to specific provisions of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Operation and Maintenance (OM) Code as incorporated by reference in Section 50.55a, "Codes and standards," in Title 10, "Energy," of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) in alternative request PST-ALT-02 on the basis that the alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety pursuant to subparagraph (1), "Acceptable level of quality and safety," in paragraph (z), "Alternatives to codes and standards requirements," of 10 CFR 50.55a.

The staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes, as set forth in the enclosed safety evaluation, that SNC has adequately demonstrated that proposed alternative to the requirements of the ASME OM Code provided an adequate level of quality and safety. 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 ASME OM Code requirements are contained in Enclosure 1 of this letter. A copy of the related Safety Evaluation, which includes the evaluation of the alternate code requirements, is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

/RA Jennifer Dixon-Herrity for/

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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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

(Revised 05/08/2019)

cc:

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

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

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

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

County Commissioner
Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
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

Resident Inspector
Vogtle Plant Units 3 & 4
8805 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

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

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

Mr. Michael Yox
Site Regulatory Affairs Director
Vogtle Units 3 & 4
7825 River Road, Bin 63031
Waynesboro, GA 30830

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)
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)