

**From:** Rankin, Jennivine  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:42 AM  
**To:** Agee, Stephanie Y.; Williamson, Daniel W.  
**Cc:** Vogtle PEmails; Santos, Cayetano  
**Subject:** ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S MAIN CONTROL ROOM EMERGENCY HABITABILITY PRESSURE REGULATING VALVE AND SOURCE RANGE NEUTRON FLUX DOUBLING SURVEILLANCE CHANGES (LAR-20-002) (EPID: L-2020-LLA-0034)

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
3535 Colonnade Parkway  
BIN B237  
Birmingham, AL 35243

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S MAIN CONTROL ROOM EMERGENCY HABITABILITY PRESSURE REGULATING VALVE AND SOURCE RANGE NEUTRON FLUX DOUBLING SURVEILLANCE CHANGES (LAR-20-002) (EPID: L-2020-LLA-0034)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated February 28, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20059N597), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a license amendment to Combined License (COL) Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4, respectively. The requested amendment proposes changes to the following VEGP Units 3 and 4 COL Appendix A, Technical Specifications (TS):

- A. Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.7.6.3 for the Main Control Room Emergency Habitability System (VES) operation, Frequency is changed from "31 days" to "31 days on a STAGGERED TEST Basis." In conjunction with this change, SR 3.7.6.9 verifying the self-contained pressure regulating valve in each VES air delivery flow path is operable in accordance with the Inservice Testing Program (IST) is deleted.
- B. SR 3.3.8.2 (Channel Calibration) and SR 3.3.8.3 (Engineered Safety Feature [ESF] Response Time) is revised to include a Note excluding neutron detectors.
- C. Administrative Control TS 5.5.3, "Inservice Testing Program," is revised to replace existing detail with reference to fulfilling the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(f).
- D. TS 5.5.9, "System Level OPERABILITY Testing Program," is editorially revised for appropriate wording consistency and appropriate reference to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) applicable section.
- E. TS 3.4.9 Applicability Note 2 is revised to replace "RTP > 20%" (where "RTP" is defined as "RATED THERMAL POWER") with "THERMAL POWER > 20% RTP."

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's acceptance review of these requests. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the staff to complete its detailed technical reviews. 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 Section 50.90 of the 10 CFR, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of the 10 CFR addresses 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 staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the 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 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 staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

SNC has requested staff approval of this LAR by August 28, 2020. The staff intends to complete this action by November 28, 2020. However, the staff will try to expedite its review to have it completed by August 28, 2020, unless we agree to a different date at a later time due to circumstances beyond our control. The staff estimates that it may take 420 hours to complete this licensing action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1530 or [Jennivine.Rankin@nrc.gov](mailto:Jennivine.Rankin@nrc.gov).

Jennie

Jennie Rankin, Project Manager  
Vogtle Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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**From:** Rankin, Jennivine

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