



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE N.E., SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1200

December 10, 2020

Mr. Michael Yox
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
7825 River Road, Bldg. 302, Vogtle 3&4
Waynesboro, GA 30830

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 3 - WITHDRAWAL OF NON-CITED VIOLATION 05200025/2016004-02, FAILURE TO QUALIFY WPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE CODE

Dear Mr. Yox:

This letter is to inform you that non-cited violation (NCV) 05200025/2016004-02, "Failure to qualify WPS in accordance with applicable code," contained in NRC Integrated Inspection Reports 05200025/2016004, 05200026/2016004, issued February 13, 2017, Accession No. ML17044A539, and in Errata for NRC Integrated Inspection Reports 05200025/2016004, 05200026/2016004, issued in January 31, 2018, Accession No. ML18032A756, has been withdrawn. The NCV was associated with Unit 3 ITAAC 3.3.00.02a.i.b (Index # 761).

Following the identification of the inspection finding, several code interpretations were submitted to the American Welding Society (AWS) for code section D1.4, Structural Welding Code-Reinforcing Steel. Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) is committed to the 1998 version of AWS D1.4 as referenced in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) and American Concrete Institute (ACI) 349-01, Code Requirements for Nuclear Safety Related Concrete Structures. Two code interpretations were written for the 1998 code version that were applicable to this inspection finding: AWS Log numbers D1.4-98-I02, "Qualification Limits of Table 6.2," and D1.4-18-I01, "Use of Essential Variables for WPS Qualification," Inquiry 3. These interpretations provided clarification for welding procedure specification (WPS) qualifications with respect to essential variables for joint type and groove type. Additionally, your staff evaluated the code applicability and documented in Engineering & Design Coordination Report (E&DCR) APP-CR01-GEF-850264, Revision 0, "Rebar WPS Qualification."

The NRC Staff conducted a detailed review of the applicable AWS code sections, including the AWS code interpretations mentioned above. As a result, the subject NCV 05200025/2016004-02 was determined not to be valid. The NRC Staff subsequently determined SNC was in compliance with the requirements of AWS D1.4-98 and also determined that there is no Criterion XVI violation for inadequate corrective actions associated with the original NCV.

Because this NCV has been withdrawn, neither the NCV nor the associated cross-cutting aspect will be used in assessing Vogtle Unit 3 Generating Plant performance in the Construction Reactor Oversight Process. If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact me at (404)-997-4510 or by email at Nicole.Coover@nrc.gov. This letter will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nicole Coover
Branch Chief
Construction Inspection Branch 1

Docket Nos.: 5200025, 5200026
License Nos: NPF-91, NPF-92

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML20345A348**

(NCP-2020-008 VEGP Withdrawal with Attachment) ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML20345A198**

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