



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

May 6, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Omar López-Santiago, Chief
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Billy Gleaves, Senior Project Manager /RA/
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF A PUBLIC MEETING WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR
OPERATING COMPANY ON APRIL 29, 2021

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held an “observation meeting” public meeting with Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) on April 29, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was a pre-submittal meeting for SNC and NRC staff to discuss details associated with, and supporting, its potential request for an alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section III, for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Unit 3. Key points were related to ASME Section III requirements, the proposed SNC repair plan, and the treatment of unqualified material that may remain as part of the vessel after the repair. NRC and SNC staff participated in the call. There were no members of the public who identified themselves at the meeting and no comments or questions were directed to the staff. The meeting ended at 10:36 a.m. EST.

The meeting notice can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21084A223. The meeting notice was also posted on the NRC public website. Enclosures 1 and 2 are the meeting agenda and attendance list for the meeting, respectively.

The documents referenced during the discussion can be found at the ADAMS Accession Nos. given below:

• SNC PowerPoint Presentation	ML21123A141
• SNC Draft ASME Code Alternative ALT-16	ML21116A260

CONTACT: W. Gleaves, NRR/VPO
(301) 415-5848

During the meeting, SNC described the design of the VEGP, Unit 3 containment vessel, as an ASME Section III, Class MC (metal containment) pressure vessel. The vessel received the Code stamp from the "N certificate holder" Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. Subsequently six pieces of "Unistrut" were welded to the vessel in three locations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss SNCs plans to address these Unistruts and welds and return the vessel to meet ASME Code requirements. SNC presented slides that described their plans, including an "alternative" to be submitted to the NRC for approval that would address the remediation of the non-compliant welds. SNC provided additional detail as to the mechanical properties of the non-compliant welds and its bases for leaving the current welds in place, as well as the weld procedure and the welder qualifications.

Following the presentation, the main comments of the NRC staff were summarized as follows:

NRC asked SNC to identify and address the ASME paragraphs that are not being followed in the draft alternative and state specifically why an ASME Code repair cannot be performed. SNC stated that following N stamp, the vessel is in ASME Code Section XI control and repair rules for this case are not specified. NRC asked how SNC knows that the non-compliant welds are on the surface only. NRC asked for information on the impact on the vessel of the use of a non-compliant weld procedure. NRC asked for information on the impact to the vessel of weld preheats between 200°F and 150°F. NRC asked for information to aid the staff in understanding how the non-certified welder and weld procedure meets the ASME Section III Code program. NRC also asked for details on any unique differences between the three weld locations and which of the three locations may be most limiting. NRC asked that SNC provide justification for no volumetric examinations. NRC asked why surface examination provides the similar level of assurance of quality as volumetric examinations, in this case.

Docket No.: 52-025

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

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 OPERATING COMPANY ON APRIL 29, 2021
 DATED: MAY 6, 2021

DISTRIBUTION:

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML21124A203 ***via e-mail** **NRR-106**

OFFICE	PM: NRR/VPO	LA: NRR/VPO	PM: NRR/VPO	ABC: NRR/NVIB
NAME	WGleaves*	RButler*	CSantos*	DWidrevitz*
DATE	5/04/21	5/04/21	5/6/21	5/6/21
OFFICE	BC: NRR/VPO	PM: NRR/VPO		
NAME	OLópez-Santiago*	WGleaves*		
DATE	5/6/21	5/6/21		

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**AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Thursday, April 29, 2021
Teleconference
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

PURPOSE: To discuss issues associated with the safety review of licensing actions for Southern Nuclear Operating Company’s (SNC) Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4.

OPEN

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Led By</u>
9:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks	NRC
9:10 a.m.	Discussion of Identified Topics	NRC/SNC
	Opportunity for Public Comment Open Portion Concludes	NRC/Public
<u>CLOSED</u> 12:00 p.m.	(If needed) Adjourn	NRC/SNC

PUBLIC MEETING
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Thursday, April 29, 2021
Teleconference List of Attendees

Name	Organization	
Representing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission		
Armstrong, Garry Benson, Michael Covert, Nicole Davis, Bradley Eargle, Jason Fredette, Thomas Gaslevic, James Gleaves, Billy Griman, Brian Honcharik, John Khouri, George Lee, Brian López-Santiago, Omar McCurry, Katie Mitchell, Matthew Rudland, David Spencer, Michael Webb, Michael Welch, Christopher Widrevitz, Dan Wittick, Brian	NRR and Region II	
Representing SNC		
Burns, Evan Caver, Kyle Chapman, Nathan Dorsey, Keith Foley, Ryan Grant, Eddie Kellenberger, Nicholas Leighty, Steven Mann, Elisheba Murphy, Drew Musto, Tom Quarles, Adam Willoughby-Braun, Selena Wilson, Mark Yox, Michael	Southern Nuclear Operating Company	
Representing SNC Contactors		
Gould, Andrew Hand, Steve Presley, Lee Lockman, Steve Long, Margaret	CB&I Services CB&I Services CB&I Services CB&I Services CB&I Services	Southern Nuclear Operating Company's contactors
Representing the Public		
None self-identified.		

Note: All participated via teleconference.