

May 26, 2021

10 CFR 50.54(a)(4)

NL-21-0526

Docket Nos.:	50-321	50-348	50-424	50-366	50-364	50-425
	71-333	71-521	71-726	72-036	72-042	72-1039

ATTN: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2
Quality Assurance Topical Report - Reduction in Commitment (Pandemic Related) -
Supplement

Reference 1: Letter from Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Cheryl A. Gayheart) to
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Document Control Desk), "Quality
Assurance Topical Report - Reduction in Commitment (Pandemic Related),"
May 7, 2021 (ADAMS Accession Number: ML21127A184)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(a)(4), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) requested approval of a revision to the SNC Quality Assurance Topical Report (QATR) in Reference 1. The proposed change was deemed to constitute a reduction of commitment in the previously accepted quality assurance program. Specifically, SNC's QATR would be expanded to provide allowances for performing fully remote vendor audits during periods of exigent conditions (e.g., pandemics).

Subsequent to submittal of Reference 1, SNC identified a need for clarification and wishes to supplement the request as shown in the Enclosure to this letter to better align the descriptions of provisional remote assessments and fully remote assessments with Enclosure 2 of Reference 1. SNC has entered the need for clarification in its corrective action program. This supplement does not change the Conclusion in Reference 1 and no other clarification needs have been identified.

This letter contains no NRC commitments. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Coleman at 205.992.6611.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on the 26th day of May 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl A. Gayheart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cheryl A. Gayheart
Regulatory Affairs Director

CAG/tle

Enclosure – Supplemental Information for Reference 1

cc: Regional Administrator, Region II
NRR Project Manager – Farley, Hatch, Vogtle Units 1 and 2
Senior Resident Inspector – Farley, Hatch, Vogtle Units 1 and 2
Director, Division of Spent Fuel Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Director, Alabama Office of Radiation Control
Director, Environmental Protection Division – State of Georgia
SNC Document Control RType: CGA02.001

**Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2**

**Quality Assurance Topical Report - Reduction in Commitment (Pandemic Related) -
Supplement**

Enclosure 1

Supplemental Information for Reference 1

SNC hereby requests that the first paragraph of Section 3.0 of Enclosure 1 of Reference 1 be replaced as follows.

Change from:

The proposed change, though considered a reduction in commitments as it relates to being present at the facility to perform an assessment, will provide additional flexibility for SNC to perform vendor assessments using one of the following techniques identified in EPRI 3002020796 during exigent conditions:

- Provisional remote assessments, where all assessors are remote, can be used in cases where on-site in person presence is necessary, but is not possible due to exigent conditions. The results of a provisional remote assessment are evaluated to determine if approval of the assessed organization can be provisionally renewed with appropriate restrictions applied to each order during the provisional approval period.
- Fully remote assessments, where all assessors are remote, can be used in limited cases when on-site presence is not necessary, such as when the supplier does not have a production facility.

Change to:

The proposed change, though considered a reduction in commitments as it relates to being present at the facility to perform an assessment, will provide additional flexibility for SNC to perform vendor assessments using one of the following techniques identified in EPRI 3002020796 during exigent conditions:

- A provisional remote assessment, which is an assessment conducted with all team members participating remotely that does not assess all technical and quality requirements of interest. The objective of a provisional remote assessment is to approve a supplier for use with appropriate restrictions during exigent conditions until an assessment that evaluates all technical and quality requirements of interest can be performed.
- A fully remote assessment, which is an assessment conducted with all team members participating remotely. Fully remote assessments evaluate all applicable technical and quality requirements of interest.