

**From:** Gleaves, Billy  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2022 4:04 PM  
**To:** Chamberlain, Amy Christine; Eddie Grant - SoCo Contractor (x2edgran@southernco.com)  
**Cc:** Vogtle PEmails; Hall, Victor; Santos, Cayetano; Tseng, Ian; Scarbrough, Thomas; Wong, Yuken; Patton, Rebecca; Miller, Joshua; Wittick, Brian; Karipineni, Nageswara; Covert, Nicole  
**Subject:** Acceptance Review of Southern Nuclear Operating Company's Request for Alternative: Alternative for IST of Main Turbine Stop & Control Valves (IST-ALT-02)

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

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE: ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR MAIN TURBINE SYSTEM VALVE TESTING, UNITS 3 & 4 (EPID NO. L-2022-LLR-0042)**

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated April 8, 2022 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML22098A144), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted an alternative request for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 & 4. The requested alternative, should it be approved, would change the full stroke testing of the main turbine system valves from quarterly to partial stroke testing on a six month frequency.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this request. 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 review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the submittal has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(z)(1) and 50.55a(z)(2) of the 10 CFR, the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety. 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 alternative. 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. SNC 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 alternative by October 8, 2022, a date expected to be prior to the first required quarterly full stroke test of these valves at power. The staff will try to complete its review by this date unless we agree to a different date at a later time due to circumstances beyond our control. The staff estimates that it may take 110 hours to complete this licensing action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-5848 or [bill.gleaves@nrc.gov](mailto:bill.gleaves@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

Billy

William (Billy) Gleaves  
Senior Project Manager  
NRR/Vogtle Project Office  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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**From:** Gleaves, Billy

**Created By:** Bill.Gleaves@nrc.gov

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Tracking Status: None

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