



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

September 14, 2022

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
3535 Colonnade Parkway, Bin N-226-EC
Birmingham, AL 35243

SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS CODE FOR MAIN TURBINE SYSTEM VALVE TESTING, VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4, VEGP 3&4-IST-ALT-02 (EPID 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, Inc. (SNC or licensee) submitted Alternative Request VEGP 3&4-IST-ALT-02 to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the use of an alternative to certain American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (OM Code) requirements at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4. The specific requirements for which the alternative was requested are in the 2012 Edition of the ASME, Division 1, OM Code, Section IST as incorporated by reference in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," for the initial 10-Year IST Program interval at VEGP Units 3 and 4.

Specifically, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55 a(z)(1), the licensee requested to use the proposed alternative on the basis that the alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. The NRC's review of the Alternative Request VEGP 3&4-IST-ALT-02 is in the enclosed safety evaluation.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes that, as set forth in the safety evaluation, SNC has adequately addressed the regulatory requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55 a(z)(1). Therefore, the NRC authorizes the use of Alternative Request VEGP 3&4-IST-ALT-02 for the Initial 10-Year IST Program interval at VEGP Units 3 and 4. All other ASME Code requirements for which relief or an alternative was not specifically requested, and granted or authorized (as appropriate), in the subject request remain applicable.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2, "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

B. Whitley

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact the Senior Project Manager, Billy Gleaves, at (301) 415-5848.

Sincerely,



Signed by Hall, Victor
on 09/14/22

Victor E. Hall, Director
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

Vogle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 & 4, Alternative to the Requirements of the ASME Code for Main Turbine System Valve Testing, VEGP 3&4-IST-ALT-02 DATE September 14, 2022

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