

From: John Lamb
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 7:06 PM
To: Pournaras, DeLisa S.; Lowery, Ken G.; Sparkman, Wesley A.
Cc: Chamberlain, Amy Christine
Subject: Acceptance Review - Requested Licensing Action regarding TS Revision to Adopt WCAP-17661-P-A, "Improved Relaxed Axial Offset Control and Constant Axial Offset Control FQ Surveillance TS (L-2022-LLA-0148 and L-2022-LLA-0149)

Importance: High

DeLisa, Ken, and Wes,

By letter dated October 14, 2022 (Agencywide Documents and Access Management System Accession No. ML22287A174), as supplemented by letter dated December 9, 2022 (ML22343A255), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC, the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (Farley), Units 1 and 2, and Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Units 1, 2, 3, and 4. The proposed LAR would revise technical specifications (TS) 3.2.1, "Heat Flux Hot Channel Factor ($F_Q(Z)$)," to adopt the TS changes described in Appendix A or Appendix D (as applicable) of Westinghouse topical report WCAP-17661-P-A, Revision 1, to address the issues identified in Westinghouse Nuclear Safety Advisory Letter (NSAL) –09-5, Revision 1, "Relaxed Axial Offset Control F_Q Technical Specification Actions," and NSAL-15-1, "Heat Flux Hot Channel Factor Technical Specification Surveillance." The proposed LAR would revise the TSs, to the extent necessary, to adopt several technical specification task force (TSTF) travelers to align the Vogtle, Units 1 and 2, and Farley, Units 1 and 2, TSs with the F_Q formulations and required actions of TS 3.2.1B of NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications Westinghouse Plants," Revision 4. Additionally, SNC proposes in this LAR to change the Vogtle, Units 1 and 2, and Farley, Units 1 and 2, TSs 5.6.5, and Vogtle, Units 3 and 4, TS 5.6.3, "Core Operating Limits Report (COLR)," to include WCAP-17661-P-A, Revision 1, in the list of the NRC approved methodologies used to develop the cycle specific COLR.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this LAR. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an application for an amendment to a license (including the technical specifications) [or construction permit] must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment

in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. 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 NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal and discussions during the pre-licensing meeting on March 21, 2021 (ML21063A328), for Farley and Vogtle, Units 1 and 2, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 450 hours to complete for Farley and Vogtle, Units 1 and 2, and 280 hours for Vogtle, Units 3 and 4. The NRC staff expects to complete this review by December 19, 2023. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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