



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

July 19, 2023

Mr. R. Keith Brown, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
3535 Colonnade Parkway, Bin N-274-EC
Birmingham, AL 35243

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 4 — ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENT REGARDING LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST: TIMING OF
UNIT 4 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS EFFECTIVENESS PRIOR TO INITIAL
CRITICALITY (EPID L-2023-LLA-0056)

Dear Mr. Brown:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 189 to Combined License (COL) No. NPF-92 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Unit 4. The amendment consists of changes to a COL Condition and COL Appendix A, Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated April 17, 2023, titled, "Timing of Unit 4 Technical Specifications Effectiveness Prior to Initial Criticality," designated as License Amendment Request (LAR) 23-005. Your application was supplemented by letter dated June 9, 2023, titled, "Response to Request for Additional Information Regarding License Amendment Request: Timing of Unit 4 Technical Specifications Effectiveness Prior to Initial Criticality (LAR-23-005S1)."

The amendment involves changes to VEGP, Unit 4, COL Condition 2.D.(9) specifically to temporarily delay the effectiveness of certain TS requirements prior to initial criticality of the reactor core while in operating Modes 4, 5, and 6, as well as changes to COL Appendix A, TS Limiting Condition for Operation 3.0.7 to apply these exceptions. The staff notes that SNC included in its LAR and LAR supplement changes to the TS Bases document, which is under SNC control, and that the NRC staff does not review and the Safety Evaluation will not address those changes.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation, which includes the evaluation of the changes, is also enclosed. A Notice of Issuance associated with the amendment will be published in the *Federal Register*.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, 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>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William (Billy) Gleaves, Senior Project Manager
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 52-026

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 189 to VEGP
Unit 4 COL NPF-92
2. Safety Evaluation

cc: ListServ

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*concurring by email

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