

**From:** [John Lamb](#)  
**To:** [Lowery, Ken G.](#)  
**Cc:** [Joyce, Ryan M.](#)  
**Subject:** FYI - Acceptance Review - Vogtle 3 and 4 - LAR to Adopt 10 CFR 50.69 (L-2026-LLA-0032)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 7:11:00 PM

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Ken,

By letter dated February 12, 2026 (ML26043A458), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC, the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Units 3 and 4,

The proposed LAR would modify the Vogtle, Units 3 and 4, licensing basis, by the addition of a combined license condition, to allow for the implementation of the provisions of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Section 50.69, "Risk-informed categorization and treatment of structures, systems and components for nuclear power reactors." The provisions of 10 CFR 50.69 allow adjustment of the scope of equipment subject to special treatment controls (e.g., quality assurance, testing, inspection, condition monitoring, assessment, and evaluation). For equipment determined to be of low safety significance, alternative treatment requirements can be implemented in accordance with this regulation. For equipment determined to be of high safety significance, requirements will not be changed or will be enhanced. This allows an improved focus on equipment that has greater safety significance resulting in improved plant safety.

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 10 CFR 50.90, an application for an amendment to a license (including the technical specifications) 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 LAR 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 September 17, 2025 (ML25265A043), the NRC staff has estimated,

using the GEMS process for a comprehensive review, that this licensing request will take approximately **600 hours** to complete. The NRC staff is going to combine the audit for this LAR with the audit for the Vogtle 3 and 4 RICT LAR; therefore, the NRC staff expects to complete this review by **February 25, 2027**. 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.

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