



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

April 14, 2026

LICENSEE: Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.

FACILITY: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF APRIL 1, 2026, OBSERVATION PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING HELD WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC., REGARDING A PLANT-SPECIFIC PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST TO CHANGE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.5.6, "IN-CONTAINMENT REFUELING WATER STORAGE TANK (IRWST) – OPERATING," BASED ON TSTF-567, "ADD CONTAINMENT SUMP TS TO ADDRESS GSI-191 ISSUES" FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 (EPID L-2026-LRM-0031)

On April 1, 2026, an Observation meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and representatives of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC, the licensee). The purpose of the meeting was for SNC to describe its plan to submit a license amendment request (LAR) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Units 3 and 4.

SNC is proposing to revise technical specification (TS) to TS 3.5.6, "In-containment Refueling Water Storage Tank (IRWST) – Operating," to address Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR [Pressurized-Water Reactor] Sump Performance," based on Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF)-567, "Add Containment Sump TS to Address GSI-191 Issues," (Agencywide Documents and Access Management System Accession No. ML18109A077).

GSI-191 addresses the potential for debris, such as insulation, coatings, and dust, clogging PWR containment sump strainers during a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). Postulated pipe breaks could generate enough debris to clog sump screens, restricting water flow needed for long-term cooling.

The Vogtle, Units 3 and 4, Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (ML25181A780), Section 1.9.4.2.3, "New Generic Issues," Issue 191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance," states, in part, that:

The AP1000 Nuclear Power Plant uses natural recirculation for cooling the core following a loss of coolant accident (LOCA).

Screens are provided in strategic areas of the plant to remove debris that might migrate with the water in containment and adversely affect core cooling. Accordingly, it must be assured that the screens themselves are not susceptible to plugging.

Technical report APP-GW-GLR-079 ["AP1000 Verification of Water Sources for Long-Term Recirculation Cooling Following a LOCA," Westinghouse Electric Company LLC.] evaluates the potential for debris to plug the AP1000 screens consistent with Regulatory Guide 1.82 Revision 3 and subsequently issued Nuclear Regulatory Commission guidance. The evaluation considers the various potential contributors to screen plugging. It considers debris that could be produced by a LOCA as well as resident fibers and particles that could be present in containment prior to the LOCA. It considers the AP1000 containment design, equipment locations, and containment cleanliness program. The evaluation uses debris characteristics based on sample measurements from operating plants and evaluates the generation of chemical precipitants considering materials used inside the AP1000 containment, the post-accident water chemistry, and applicable research and testing. The AP1000 screen designs are acceptable.

On March 16, 2026 (ML26075B796), the meeting was noticed on the NRC public webpage.

The NRC staff opened the meeting with introductory remarks and a rollcall of the attendees. The NRC staff requested that SNC provide an email with a list of the SNC personnel and its contractors in attendance.

A list of attendees is provided as an Enclosure.

The SNC representative presented slides contained in ML26079A034.

SNC representatives discussed the following topics: (1) background information, (2) applicability of TSTF-567, (3) specific changes proposed, (4) variations from TSTF-567, (5) schedule, and (6) discussion.

SNC representative stated that the proposed LAR is expected to be submitted to the NRC in the second quarter of 2026 (April – June 2026) with a request for NRC staff approval in the first quarter of 2027 (January – March 2027) with implementation within 60 days.

### Discussion

The following topics were discussed between the NRC staff and SNC representatives:

- NRC staff questioned differences in design between Vogtle, Units 3 and 4, as compared to those plants for which TSTF-567 was intended to address and suggested the licensee explain in its submittal,
- The NRC staff noted that screen blockage would be expected to have a shorter completion time than other TS conditions because screen blockage affects redundancy while the other conditions do not,
- The NRC staff noted that the proposed surveillance requirement (SR) for sump inspection appears to be more limited in scope than the SR developed for TSTF-567 and suggested the licensee clarify/justify in its submittal,
- The NRC staff stated that the proposed amendments should discuss why NUREG-2149 for AP1000 was not included in TSTF-567 and justify the applicability for Vogtle 3 and 4,
- Other PWRs only have screens for the recirculation sump, and Vogtle, Units 3 and 4, have screens on the IRWST and the sump. The NRC staff noted that this could affect the injection phase of LOCA recovery, which was not considered in the development of

TSTF-567, and suggested the submittal discuss and justify the applicability considering these differences.

Closing Remarks

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The NRC staff did not make any regulatory decisions during the meeting. Once received, the NRC staff will perform a thorough review of the proposed LAR. The NRC staff will make any regulatory decisions in writing in a timely manner. Public Meeting Feedback forms were available, but no comments were received.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am Eastern Time (ET).

Please direct any inquiries to me at [John.Lamb@nrc.gov](mailto:John.Lamb@nrc.gov) or 301-415-3100.

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

Docket Nos. 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:  
List of Attendees

cc: Listserv

LIST OF ATTENDEES

APRIL 1, 2026, PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR COMPANY

REGARDING A PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST TO CHANGE TS 3.5.6

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4

<u>ATTENDEE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
John G. Lamb	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Mike Markley	NRC
Ahsan Sallman	NRC
Robert Beaton	NRC
Steve Smith	NRC
Justin Donohoe	NRC
Zach Turner	NRC
Ed Miller	NRC
Robert Fisher	NRC
Michael Magyar	NRC
Vic Cusumano	NRC
Neil Haggerty	Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC)
Ryan Joyce	SNC
Thomas Byrne	SNC
Michael Coker	SNC
Dan Williamson	SNC
Eddie Grant	SNC
Nguyen Xuan Pham	SNC
Ryan Rocharadson	Westinghouse
Daniel Johnson	Westinghouse
Robert Pinkston	Westinghouse

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ZTurner, NRR

EMiller, NRR

RFisher, NRR

VCusumano, NRR

**ADAMS Accession Nos.:**

**Package: ML26097A095**

**SNC Slides: ML26079A034**

**Meeting Notice: ML26075B796**

**Meeting Summary: ML26097A133**

**eConcurrence Case: 20260407-70025**