

June 1, 2015

Mr. B. H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
40 Inverness Center Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S  
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 14-006) AND EXEMPTION FOR  
THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: ADDITION  
OF INSTRUMENTS TO DESIGN RELIABILITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM  
(TAC NO. RP9500)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated October 7, 2014 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML14280A391), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a license amendment request and an exemption for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4 (Combined License (COL) Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92). SNC proposes to modify the feedwater controller program so that it will respond as required to various plant transients while minimizing the potential for undesired actuation. SNC has determined that this modification requires departures and exemptions from the plant-specific design control document.

Accordingly, SNC proposes changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) in the form of departures from the Tier 2 information incorporated in the plant-specific design control document, as well as changes to related plant-specific Tier 1 information with corresponding changes to the associated information in the COL (Appendix C, "Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria"). These changes to Tier 1 information entail a request for exemption in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, Appendix D, "Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design." SNC determined that the requested departures and exemption were necessary to allow changes to the scope of the design reliability assurance program (D-RAP).

The proposed changes involve two tables:

- Tier 1 Table 3.7-1, "Design Reliability Assurance Program," which is the list of components that are subject to Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria 3.7.00.01 (D-RAP ITAAC)
- Tier 2 Table 17.4-1, "Risk-Significant [Structures, Systems, and Components] SSCs Within the Scope of D-RAP"

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of these requests. 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 reviews. 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 10 CFR, an application for an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of 10 CFR addresses content of technical information that is required for COL application FSARs. 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 reviews and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment and exemption 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. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3249 or [Ruth.Reyes@nrc.gov](mailto:Ruth.Reyes@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ruth C. Reyes, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s): 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

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/RA/

Ruth C. Reyes, Project Manager  
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Office of New Reactors

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(Revised 04/27/2015)

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