

July 2, 2015

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
42 Inverness Center Parkway
BIN B237
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NO OBJECTION FOR PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT REQUEST
(PAR 15-009), "USE OF AWS D1.1-2000 CRITERIA FOR STRUCTURAL WELDS"
FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated June 1, 2015, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 15-009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML15152A487) notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that absent NRC objection, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of License Amendment Request (LAR) 15-009 (ADAMS Accession Number ML15146A444), SNC will proceed with construction of components for seismic Category I and II structures utilizing the criteria of American Welding Society (AWS) D1.1-2000 for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 and consistent with requested changes in LAR 15-009.

As required by License Condition 2.D.(1) the NRC has received LAR 15-009 referenced in PAR 15-009. The LAR 15-009 has been supplemented by letter dated May 28, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15148A585) and June 29, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15181A078). The staff has evaluated the license amendment documentation supporting LAR 15-009 and has determined that there is sufficient information to accept LAR 15-009 for detailed technical review (ADAMS Accession Number ML15148A304).

The NRC staff has determined that PAR 15-009 contained sufficient information on the impact of the proposed plant change on associated Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria. In addition, the NRC staff has reviewed the scope of PAR 15-009 and found that it is consistent with the changes from the current licensing basis as requested in LAR 15-009 as supplemented. Therefore, the NRC has no objection to SNC proceeding with the construction of the proposed plant change identified in PAR 15-009 pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of LAR 15-009 as revised. SNC acknowledges that if LAR 15-009 is denied, SNC will return the plant to its current licensing basis as required by License Condition 2.D.(1)(b).

B. H. Whitley

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Senior Project Manager, Chandu Patel, at 301-415-3025 or via e-mail at Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Francis Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

B. H. Whitley

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Senior Project Manager, Chandu Patel, at 301-415-3025 or via e-mail at Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Francis Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

cc: See next page

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*** Via E-mail**

NRO-002

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B. H. Whitley

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(Revised 06/16/2015)

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