

June 25, 2015

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 15-004) AND EXEMPTION FOR
THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4:
CONSOLIDATION OF UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM SPARE
BATTERY TERMINATION BOXES (TAC NO. RP9510)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated April 9, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15099A568), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a license amendment and an exemption to Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. The amendment request proposes changes to the Class 1E direct current and Uninterruptible Power Supply System, replacing four Spare Termination Boxes with a single Spare Battery Termination Box.

SNC has also requested an exemption from the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, Appendix D, Section III.B, "Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design, Scope and Contents," to allow a departure from the elements of the certification information in Tier 1 of the generic Design Control Document.

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 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 required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

B. Whitley

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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 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.

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

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.

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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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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List
cc:

(Revised 06/16/2015)

Resident Manager
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant
7821 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Resident Inspector
Plant Vogtle 3&4
7825 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Office of the Attorney General
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Elaine Sikes
Burke County Library
130 Highway 24 South
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Southern Nuclear Op. Co.
Document Control Coordinator
42 Inverness Center parkway
Attn: B236
Birmingham, AL 35242

Mr. Jerry Smith
Commissioner
District 8
Augusta-Richmond County Commission
1332 Brown Road
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Anne F. Appleby
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
2100 East Exchange Place
Tucker, GA 30084

Gene Stilp
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

County Commissioner
Office of the County Commissioner
Burke County Commission
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

Mr. James C. Hardeman
Environmental Radiation Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
4220 International Pkwy, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

George B. Taylor, Jr.
2100 East Exchange Pl
Atlanta, GA 30084-5336

Mr. Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
Atlanta, GA 30334

Brian H. Whitley
42 Inverness Center Parkway
BIN B237
Birmingham, AL 35242

Mr. Joseph A. (Buzz) Miller
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
241 Ralph McGill Blvd.
BIN 10240
Atlanta, GA 30308-3374

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
becky@georgiawand.org (Becky Rafter)
bhwhitle@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
bill.wood@cbi.com (Bill Wood)
bjadams@southernco.com (Brad Adams)
bwwaites@southernco.com (Brandon Waites)
collinlj@westinghouse.com (Leslie Collins)
couturf@westinghouse.com (Gerald Couture)
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)
curtis.castell@cbi.com (Curtis Castell)
curtis.castell@cbi.com (Curtis Castell)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)
david.jantosik@cbi.com (David Jantosik)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
david.siefken@hq.doe.gov (David Siefken)
delongra@westinghouse.com (Rich DeLong)
dgbost@southernco.com (Danny Bost)
dlfulton@southernco.com (Dale Fulton)
drculver@southernco.com (Randy Culver)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
edavis@pegasusgroup.us (Ed David)
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)
fdhundle@southernco.com (Forrest Hundley)
G2NDRMDC@southernco.com (SNC Document Control)
graysw@westinghouse.com (Scott W. Gray)
james.comer@cbi.com (James Comer)
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)
jamiller@southernco.com (Buzz Miller)
jbtomase@southernco.com (Janice Tomasello)
jeff.lyash@cbi.com (Jeff Lyash)
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)
jlhall@southernco.com (Jennifer Hall)
john.simmons@cbi.com (John A. Simmons)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
jpredd@southernco.com (Jason R. Redd)
jranalli@meagpower.org (Jerry Ranalli)
jtgasser@southernco.com (Jeff Gasser)
karen.patterson@ttnus.com (Karen Patterson)
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

kelly.trice@cbi-psg.com (Kelly Price)
ken.hollenbach@cbi.com (Kenneth W. Hollenbach)
kim.haynes@opc.com (Kim Haynes)
kmseiber@southernco.com (Kristin Seibert)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
ldperry@southernco.com (Leigh D. Perry)
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)
markus.popa@hq.doe.gov (Markus Popa)
mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)
mdmeier@southernco.com (Mike Meier)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
Melissa.Smith@Hq.Doe.Gov (Melissa Smith)
michael.annacone@cbi.com (Michael Annacone)
michael.annacone@cbi.com (Michael J. Annacone)
mike.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)
mlgraves@southernco.com (Michelle Graves)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
myox@southernco.com (Mike Yox)
nicholle.burroughs@cbi.com (Nicholle Burroughs)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)
r.joshi15@comcast.net (Ravi Joshi)
randall@nexusamllc.com (Randall Li)
rhenry@ap.org (Ray Henry)
rjarrett@southernco.com (Robyn Jarrett)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
Ronald.Jones@scana.com (Ronald Jones)
russpa@westinghouse.com (Paul Russ)
rwink@ameren.com (Roger Wink)
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
shhuling@southernco.com (Steven Huling)
sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)
sroetger@psc.state.ga.us (Steve Roetger)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
taterrel@southernco.com (Todd Terrell)
Tom.Bilik@nrc.gov (Thomas Bilik)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)

Vogle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

virgil.barton@cbi.com (Virgil Barton)
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)
wasparkm@southernco.com (Wesley A. Sparkman)
wayne.marquino@ge.com (Wayne Marquino)
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)
x2gabeck@southernco.com (Gary Becker)