

March 25, 2016

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
42 Inverness Center Parkway, B022
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4 —
SAFETY EVALUATION FOR THE COMMISSION APPROVED SIMULATION
FACILITY (TAC NO. RP9515)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated September 18, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15265A107); as supplemented by letter dated November 16, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15327A005); letter dated February 18, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16049A359); and by letter dated March 23, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16083A463); Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) requested approval to use a simulation facility for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 & 4 (VEGP 3 & 4) in the administration of operating tests for operators and senior operators under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) § 55.45(b)(1). After reviewing SNC's request, the Commission finds that the simulation facility for VEGP 3 & 4 and its proposed use are suitable for the conduct of operating tests for the facility licensee's reference plant under 10 CFR § 55.45(a). Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR § 55.46(b)(2), the Commission approves the simulation facility for VEGP 3 & 4 for administration of operating tests. The approval to administer operating tests on this Commission-approved simulation facility (CAS) will expire as unneeded when SNC has available a plant-referenced simulator meeting the requirements of 10 CFR § 55.46(c). In addition, the Commission finds the simulation facility for VEGP 3 & 4 satisfies the criteria in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulatory Guide 1.149, "Nuclear Power Plant Simulation Facilities for Use in Operator Training and License Examinations" to be suitable for control manipulations. This finding regarding the simulation facility's suitability for control manipulations does not constitute an exemption from any applicable regulations, including 10 CFR § 55.31(a)(5); any exemption would be addressed separately.

The NRC has prepared a Safety Evaluation (SE) for the CAS for VEGP 3 & 4, Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, respectively. The enclosed SE is being provided only to SNC for review of proprietary information pursuant to 10 CFR § 2.390 "Public Inspections, Exemptions, and Requests for Withholding." The staff concludes that the enclosed SE does not contain information for which exemption from public disclosure has been approved. The staff requests that, within 10 business days from the date of this letter, SNC identify such exempt information and any factual errors. If within that 10-day period you do not request that all or portions of the SE be withheld from public disclosure, the enclosed SE will be made available for public inspection through the NRC Public Document Room and the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS and placed on the NRC's public web page for this application.

Document transmitted herewith contains sensitive unclassified information. When separated from the enclosure this document is "DECONTROLLED."

B. Whitley

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Kallan, Senior Project Manager at (301) 415-2809, Paul.Kallan@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John McKirgan, Acting Chief
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/o encl: See next page

B. Whitley

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Kallan, Senior Project Manager at (301) 415-2809, Paul.Kallan@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John McKirgan, Acting Chief
Licensing Branch 4
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Docket Nos.: 52-025
52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/o encl: See next page

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(Revised 02/11/2016)

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