

From: [Martin, Robert](#)
To: [McElroy, G. Ken](#); [Joyce, Ryan M. \(RMJOYCE@southernco.com\)](#)
Cc: [Williams, Shawn](#)
Subject: Acceptance for review of Optimized ZIRLO - Farley and Vogtle, Units 1 and 2
Date: Monday, April 18, 2016 12:21:00 PM

By application dated March 16, 2016, the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. proposes to revise Technical Specifications (TS) for the Farley and Vogtle Unit 1 and 2 plants to allow the use of Optimized ZIRLO™ as an approved fuel rod cladding.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to continue its technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the request 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 Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the TSs) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the 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.

The NRC staff has reviewed your request and concludes that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to continue its technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed request 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 technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the technical review are identified in "requests for additional information" despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's technical review by separate correspondence.