

June 24, 2016

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

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 3
REGARDING THE PLANT WALK-THROUGH AND APPROVAL OF ALTERNATE
METHOD (CAC NO. RP9515)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved the enclosed exemption from a requirement of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 55.45(b) with respect to Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Unit 3 (VEGP Unit 3). The NRC staff determined that no exemption to the requirement to use the examination criteria in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" as stated in 10 CFR 55.40(a) and (b), is necessary because NUREG-1021, ES-201, "Initial Operator Licensing Examination Process," Section B, "Background," allows for the consideration of alternatives to its examination criteria. The NRC staff evaluated the alternative described in the letter from Ms. Karen Fili, Site Vice President, VEGP Units 3 and 4, to the NRC dated May 27, 2016, "Southern Nuclear Operating Company Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 Revised Request for Exemption and [Request for Additional Information] RAI Response: Operator Licensing," Reference No. ND-16-0747 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, Accession No. ML16148A484) ("May 27 letter") and finds it acceptable.

Therefore, whereas 10 CFR 55.45(b) requires, in part, that the operating test be administered in a plant walk-through to an applicant for an operator or senior operator license, the exemption allows one, two, or three of the in-plant system job performance measures administered as part of the walk-through portion of the operating test to be administered to applicants for an operator or senior operator license at VEGP Unit 3 using the alternative method described in the May 27 letter.

This exemption is effective immediately and expires when the Commission makes its finding for VEGP Unit 3 in accordance with 10 CFR 52.103(g). Furthermore, for those tasks that are selected to be part of an operating task in accordance with NUREG-1021, ES-301, Section D.4.a and Section D.4.b, where it is possible to both perform on-the-job training in the plant and administer part of an operating test in a plant walk-through, as determined by the NRC examiners, this exemption may not be used.

A copy of the exemption and approval of the alternative is enclosed. The exemption has been forwarded to the Office of the *Federal Register* for publication.

B. Whitley

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos. 52-025
52-026

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/o encl: See next page

B. Whitley

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***via e-mail**

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NAME	PKallan	RButler	MJunge		JDixon-Herrity	FAkstulewicz
DATE	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16	6/23/16

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Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List
cc:

(Revised 03/10/2016)

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

Mr. Barty Simonton
Environmental Radiation Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
4224 International Pkwy, Suite 120
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

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

Gene Stilp
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

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

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

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

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

Mr. Wayne Guilfoyle
Commissioner
District 8
Augusta-Richmond County Commission
4940 windsor Spring Rd
Hephzibah, GA 30815

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

Gwendoly Jackson
Burke County Library
130 Highway 24 South
Waynesboro, GA 30830

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

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)
annacom@westinghouse.com (Michael J. Annacone)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
Bartley.Higgins@hq.doe.gov (Bartley Higgins)
becky@georgiawand.org (Becky Rafter)
bhwhitle@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
bjadams@southernco.com (Brad Adams)
burrouno@westinghouse.com (Nicholle Burroughs)
bwwaites@southernco.com (Brandon Waites)
castelca@westinghouse.com (Curtis Castell)
comerj@westinghouse.com (James Comer)
couturgf@westinghouse.com (Gerald Couture)
crenshjw@westinghouse.com (John Crenshaw)
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
dgboost@southernco.com (Danny Bost)
dlfulton@southernco.com (Dale Fulton)
drculver@southernco.com (Randy Culver)
durhamdc@westinghouse.com (David Durham)
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)
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)
jannina.blanco@pillsburylaw.com (Jannina Blanco)
jantol1dj@westinghouse.com (David Jantosik)
jbtomase@southernco.com (Janice Tomasello)
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)
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)
kdfili@southernco.com (Karen Fili)
kim.haynes@opc.com (Kim Haynes)
kmseiber@southernco.com (Kristin Seibert)
kmstacy@southernco.com (Kara Stacy)

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
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.Kuca@hq.doe.gov (Michael Kuca)
mike.price@opc.com (M.W. Price)
mlgraves@southernco.com (Michelle Graves)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
myox@southernco.com (Mike Yox)
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)
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)
sara@cleanenergy.org (Sara Barczak)
sblanton@balch.com (Stanford Blanton)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
Shiva.Granmayeh@hq.doe.gov (Shiva Granmayeh)
sjackson@meagpower.org (Steven Jackson)
skauffman@mpr.com (Storm Kauffman)
sroetger@psc.state.ga.us (Steve Roetger)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
taterrel@southernco.com (Todd Terrell)
Tom.Bilik@nrc.gov (Thomas Bilik)
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov (Tom Miller)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)
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)