

October 19, 2016

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 16-009R3) FOR THE VOGTLE
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF
AUXILIARY BUILDING FLOORS (CAC NO. RP9527)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated June 14, 2016, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16166A409), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR 16-009) for the Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. SNC subsequently superseded the request as LAR 16-009R1 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16183A394), with a reduced scope to match the scope of the completed calculations as of July 1, 2016. Having completed the remaining necessary, supporting calculations, LAR 16-009, Revision 2 was submitted on August 12, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16225A655), to reinstate the original scope of impacted structures, systems, and components included in the initial request.

In a letter dated October 12, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16286A659), SNC submitted LAR 16-009R3 that revised and supplemented the previous versions of this LAR to address the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's comments. The LAR proposes to depart from Tier 2* and associated Tier 2 information in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report - which includes the plant-specific Design Control Document Tier 2 information - to revise details of the structural design of auxiliary building floors.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the 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 complete its detailed technical review. 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 the 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 the 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.

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 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) 415-3025 or Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Chandu Patel, Senior 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 review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment 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/

Chandu Patel, Senior 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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Revised (09/28/2016)

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