

December 2, 2016

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
42 Inverness Center Parkway  
BIN B237  
Birmingham, AL 35242

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S  
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT AND EXEMPTION (LAR 16-026) FOR  
THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4: PASSIVE  
CORE COOLING SYSTEM CONDENSATE RETURN (CAC NO. RP9604)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated November 4, 2016, and as supplemented by letter dated November 16, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Nos. ML16319A120 and ML16321A416, respectively), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC/licensee) submitted a request for a license amendment and exemption (LAR 16-026) for the Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4, respectively. The requested amendment proposes to depart from approved AP1000 Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information as incorporated into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (which includes the plant-specific DCD Tier 2 information) and involves changes to COL Appendix C information and to the corresponding plant-specific Tier 1 information. Specifically, the proposed amendment would revise the licensing basis information to reflect an increase in the efficiency of the return of condensate utilized by the passive core cooling system to the in-containment refueling water storage tank to support the capability for long-term cooling.

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 DCD.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of the LAR. 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 10 CFR 50.90, 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 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 application against the regulatory requirements and has concluded that it provides sufficient technical detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed changes 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](mailto:Ruth.Reyes@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ruth Reyes, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

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 against the regulatory requirements and has concluded that it provides sufficient technical detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed changes 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 Reyes, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

cc: See next page

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Public	RidsNroDnrl	PMoulding	MSutton
NRO_DNRL_LB4 Distribution	PO'Bryan	MErnstes	RReyes
RidsOgcMailCenter	PKallan	BBavol	JWilson
RidsRgn2MailCenter	JDixon-Herrity	SBurnell	RButler
RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter	BGleaves	JODriscoll	RKaras

ADAMS Accession No.: ML16327A050

NRO-008

OFFICE	DNRL/LB4:PM	DNRL/LB4:LA	DNRL/LB4:BC
NAME	RReyes (c)	RButler	JDixon-Herrity
DATE	11/28/16	11/28/16	11/30/16
OFFICE	DNRL/LB4:PM	DNRL/LB4:PM	
NAME	CPatel	RReyes (s)	
DATE	12/01/16	12/01/16	

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List  
cc:

(Revised 11/14/2016)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resident Inspector  
Plant Vogtle 3&4  
8805 River Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Barty Simonton  
Team Leader  
Environmental Radiation Program  
Air Protection Branch  
Environmental Protection Division  
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120  
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

Gene Stilp  
1550 Fishing Creek Valley Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

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

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

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

## Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

### Email

agaughtm@southernco.com (Amy Aughtman)  
ALPUGH@southernco.com (Amanda Pugh)  
annacom@westinghouse.com (Michael J. Annacone)  
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)  
Bartley.Higgins@hq.doe.gov (Bartley Higgins)  
becky@georgiawand.org (Becky Rafter)  
bhwhitley@southernco.com (Brian Whitley)  
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)  
bjadams@southernco.com (Brad Adams)  
burrouno@westinghouse.com (Nicholle Burroughs)  
castelca@westinghouse.com (Curtis Castell)  
comerj@westinghouse.com (James Comer)  
crpierce@southernco.com (C.R. Pierce)  
dahjones@southernco.com (David Jones)  
david.hinds@ge.com (David Hinds)  
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)  
dgbost@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)  
gfhwillis@southernco.com (Frederick Willis)  
james1.beard@ge.com (James Beard)  
jannina.blanco@pillsburylaw.com (Jannina Blanco)  
jantol1dj@westinghouse.com (David Jantosik)  
jenmorri@southernco.com (Jennifer Buettner)  
JHaswell@southernco.com (JHaswell)  
jim@ncwarn.org (Jim Warren)  
John.Bozga@nrc.gov (John Bozga)  
Joseph\_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)  
jpredd@southernco.com (Jason R. Redd)  
jranalli@meagpower.org (Jerry Ranalli)  
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)  
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)  
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)

## Vogtle Units 3 & 4 Mailing List

Ichandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)  
markus.popa@hq.doe.gov (Markus Popa)  
mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)  
mdmeier@southernco.com (Mike Meier)  
mdrauckh@southernco.com (Mark Rauckhorst)  
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.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)