



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 22, 2019

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
3535 Colonnade Parkway, Bin N-226-EC  
Birmingham, AL 35243

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 — ISSUANCE OF  
AMENDMENTS AND GRANTING OF EXEMPTIONS RE: CREDITING  
PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED FIRST PLANT AND FIRST THREE PLANT TESTS  
(LAR 18-019) (EPID L-2018-LLA-0212)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

In response to your application dated August 3, 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted the enclosed Exemptions and issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 151 and 150 to Combined License (COL) Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, respectively. The amendments consist of changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) and plant-specific Tier 1 information, with corresponding changes to Appendix C of the Facility COLs.

The amendment requires changes to the UFSAR in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2\* and Tier 2 information and related changes to the VEGP Units 3 and 4 COL and COL Appendix C (and corresponding plant-specific DCD Tier 1) information. In license amendment request (LAR) 18-019, SNC seeks approval to utilize and evaluate the results of three tests performed in China on new AP1000 power reactor facilities at Sanmen Units 1 and 2 and Haiyang Unit 1 as part of the initial test program for SNC's VEGP Units 3 and 4. These tests are used to further establish unique phenomenological performance parameters of certain AP1000 design features beyond testing performed for the Design Certification of the AP600 that will not change from plant to plant. Some of these tests are required only for the first plant and others are required only for the first three plants and thereafter, because of the standardization of the AP1000 design, would not be required as part of the initial test program for subsequent plants. "First plant only" and "first three plant only" tests are defined and listed in AP1000 Design Control Document (DCD) Revision 19 Tier 2 Section 14.2.5. The requested amendment includes changes to COL Condition 2.D.(2)(a) and plant-specific Tier 1 Section 2.1.3 to credit previously completed first plant only and first three plant only testing performed in China at Sanmen Units 1 and 2 and Haiyang Unit 1, and revise the COL to delete conditions requiring that the following first plant only and first three plant only tests be conducted on VEGP Units 3 and 4: In-Containment Refueling Water Storage Tank (IRWST) Heatup Test, Reactor Vessel Internals Vibration Testing, and Core Makeup Tank (CMT) Heated Recirculation Tests. The staff's review of LAR 18-019 considers topics associated with crediting first plant only and first three plant only tests communicated to SNC by letter dated January 13, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML120040121).

The exemption allows changes that impact Tier 1 of the plant-specific DCD and Appendix C of the Facility COL, as specified in License Amendment Request 18-019. This exemption is

related to, and necessary for the granting of the license amendment, which is being issued concurrently with this exemption.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation, which includes the evaluation of the amendment is enclosed. The notice of issuance of the amendment and the documents included in this letter will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Paul Kallan, Senior Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 2  
Division of Licensing, Siting, and  
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Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025  
52-026

Enclosures:

1. Exemption for Amendment No. 151  
for VEGP Unit 3 COL
2. Exemption for Amendment No. 150  
for VEGP Unit 4 COL
3. Amendment No. 151 to VEGP Unit 3 COL
4. Amendment No. 150 to VEGP Unit 4 COL
5. Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 — ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS AND GRANTING OF EXEMPTIONS RE: CREDITING PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED FIRST PLANT AND FIRST THREE PLANT TESTS (LAR 18-019) (EPID L-2018-LLA-0212) DATED JANUARY 22, 2019.

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML18351A342

\*via Email

NRO-008

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(Revised 08/16/2018)

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