

NRR-DRMAPEm Resource

From: Lamb, John
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 9:35 AM
To: Lowery, Ken G.
Cc: Enfinger, Timothy Lee
Subject: Acceptance Review - SNC Fleet - Relief Request for Proposed Alternative to Use ASME Code Case N-831-1 (L-2019-LLR-0097)

Importance: High

Ken,

By application dated September 30, 2019 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19273A926), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC, the licensee), submitted Relief Request No. GEN-ISI-ALT-2019-01 in accordance with paragraph 50.55a(z)(1) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) for use of a proposed alternative to the requirements of Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components," of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) at Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), Units 1 and 2; Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Units 1 and 2; and Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 1 and 2. The proposed alternative would allow the licensee to use ASME Code Case N-831-1, "Ultrasonic Examination in Lieu of Radiography for Welds in Ferritic Pipe, Section XI, Division 1," in lieu of specified ASME Code requirements. Specifically, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1), SNC requested to use an alternative on the basis that the alternative would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety.

The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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.

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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 150 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 11 months, which is September 2020. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, and unanticipated addition of scope to the review. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
LPL II-1 Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Tracking Status: None

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