



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

March 2, 2020

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, UNIT 4 – REQUEST FOR
ALTERNATIVE UNDER TITLE 10 OF THE *CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS*,
SECTION 50.55a(z)(1): ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR INSERVICE
TEST INTERVAL CODE EDITION, UNIT 4 (IST-ALT-01)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated October 31, 2019 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19304C432), and supplement dated February 6, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20037A329), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), requested U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval of an alternative, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(z)(1), to the inservice testing (IST) requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) *Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants*, Division 1, OM Code: Section IST (OM Code) associated with establishing the applicable OM Code Edition for the initial 120-month IST Program interval for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Unit 4.

Specifically, SNC requested to implement a proposed alternative to specific provisions of the ASME OM Code as incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a in request IST-ALT-01 on the basis that the alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety pursuant to subparagraph (1), "Acceptable level of quality and safety," in paragraph (z), "Alternatives to codes and standards requirements," of 10 CFR 50.55a.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes that the licensee has demonstrated that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the NRC staff authorizes the proposed alternative pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1) for VEGP Unit 4 for initial fuel load dates prior to November 23, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact Donald Habib, Project Manager at (301) 415-1035 or Donald.Habib@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor E. Hall, Chief
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 4 – REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE
 UNDER TITLE 10 OF THE *CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS*, SECTION 50.55a(z)(1):
 ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR INSERVICE TEST INTERVAL CODE EDITION, UNIT 4
 (IST-ALT-01), DATED: March 2, 2020

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(Revised 2/13/2020)

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