

**From:** Schiller, Alina  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:43 PM  
**To:** Vogtle PEmails  
**Subject:** Acceptance Letter for LAR 20-005, Vogtle Units 3 and 4  
**Attachments:** Acceptance Letter LAR 20-005 Vogtle Units 3 and 4.pdf

*Alina Schiller*

Project Manager  
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**From:** Schiller, Alina

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

July 14, 2020

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director  
Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
3535 Colonnade Parkway  
BIN B237  
Birmingham, AL 35243

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S  
REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT FOR VACUUM RELIEF VALVE TECHNICAL  
SPECIFICATION CHANGES FOR THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3  
AND 4 (LAR 20-005) (EPID NO. L-2020-LLA-0135)**

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated June 19, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20171A563), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for a license amendment to Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-91 and NPF-92, for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4, respectively. The requested amendment proposes changes to COL Appendix A, Technical Specification (TS) 3.6.3, Containment Isolation Valves, and TS 3.6.9, Vacuum Relief Valves, to exclude the vacuum relief containment isolation valves from TS Limiting Condition for Operation 3.6.3 and address the containment isolation function, operability, Actions, and Surveillances in TS 3.6.9.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 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 staff to complete its detailed technical reviews. 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 addresses 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 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 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 staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

SNC has requested staff approval of this license amendment request by November 30, 2020. The NRC staff will try to complete its review by this date unless we agree to a different date at a later time due to circumstances beyond our control. The staff estimates that it may take 455 hours to complete this licensing action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-8177 or [Alina.Schiller@nrc.gov](mailto:Alina.Schiller@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Alina Schiller, Project Manager  
Vogtle Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No(s): 52-025  
52-026