

By letter dated December 23, 2020, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), submitted Request for “Alternative Requirements for ASME Section XI Examination Coverage of Weldolet Branch Connection Welds (VEGP 3&4-PSI/ISI-ALT-15),” to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Package Accession No. ML20358A178) in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(z)(2) which permits the approval of alternatives to the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code based on the licensee demonstrating that the meeting the ASME Code would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in quality and safety.

The NRC staff has accepted the alternative for review and has reviewed the information provided by the licensee, and has determined that the following clarifications are needed:

1. Concerning Enclosure 1 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20358A180), "Proposed Alternative in Accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(2): Alternative Requirements for ASME Section XI Examination Coverage of Weldolet Branch Connection Welds," to the December 23, 2020, letter:
- Describe the ultrasonic inspection angles, frequencies, wave modes, and skew angles for the examinations shown in Figures 1-5.
 - Clarify whether Figure 2 is the best effort/augmented coverage for the axial scan.
 - Clarify whether Figure 5 is the best effort/augmented coverage for the circumferential scan.
2. Concerning proprietary Enclosure 2 (non-proprietary version ADAMS Accession No. ML20358A182), LTR-SDA-20-096-P, Revision 1, "Flaw Tolerance Evaluation to Assess Lack of Inspection Coverage of AP1000 14 x 4 Stainless Steel Weldolets to Pipe Welds," to the December 23, 2020, letter. Provide information regarding either (a) or (b) below:
- Stresses and [REDACTED].
 - Enclosure 2 states that the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Based on the above, discuss why [REDACTED]
 - Enclosure 2, LTR-SDA-20-096-P, to the December 23, 2020, letter also states that [REDACTED]
Therefore, discuss why the weldolet location [REDACTED] This discussion should also take into account the discussion in (1) above [REDACTED]
 - Validate similar stresses. Provide the stresses for the pipe to valve weld locations in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] can be used for the weldolet welds.