

**From:** Wentzel, Michael  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 7:57 AM  
**To:** Orf, Tracy J  
**Cc:** Taylor, Andrew Charles; Wrona, David  
**Subject:** Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 - Acceptance of CRDM Canopy Weld Alternative Request (EPID L-2021-LLR-0019)

Dear Mr. Orf,

By letter dated March 26, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML21085A764), the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) submitted a relief request for Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The NRC staff performs acceptance reviews of applications to determine if the scope and depth of technical information is sufficient for the staff to complete its technical reviews. The acceptance reviews also intend 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.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(z)(1) and 50.55a(z)(2) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has concluded that the licensee's submittal provides 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 request 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 the NRC staff identifies issues that affect its ability to complete the detailed technical review despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If the NRC staff needs additional information, it will notify the licensee by separate correspondence.

The staff has estimated that it will take approximately 80 hours to complete this licensing request and that it will complete its review within one year of acceptance of the application (i.e., by April 2022). These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and could change because of several factors, such as requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of application scope, review by NRC advisory committees, or hearing-related activities. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance of or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications. If complexities or challenges during the review cause significant changes to the estimated hours or completion date, the assigned project manager will communicate the new estimates and reasons for the changes to the licensee during routine interactions.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6459 or [michael.wentzel@nrc.gov](mailto:michael.wentzel@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wentzel, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-2

Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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**Recipients:**  
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"Wrona, David" <David.Wrona@nrc.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Orf, Tracy J" <tjorf@tva.gov>  
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