

From: Lamb, John
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 8:23 AM
To: Enfinger, Timothy Lee
Subject: Acceptance Review - Farley and Vogtle Exemption Requests from 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) Final Safety Analysis Report Update Schedule (L-2021-LLE-0031)

Importance: High

Tim,

By letter dated June 9 , 2021 (Agencywide Document Access and Management System Accession No. ML21160A156), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC, the licensee) submitted exemption requests for Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Farley); and Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Vogtle). The proposed exemption requests are associated with the schedule requirements contained in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.71 (e)(4), which stipulate that revisions to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) "must be filed annually or 6 months after each refueling outage provided the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months." The proposed exemption requests would allow periodic updates of the Farley UFSARs by October 31 of every odd-numbered year, and the Vogtle UFSARs by October 31 of every even-numbered year (i.e. , not exceeding 24 months between successive updates).

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of these exemption requests. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the 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 exemptions 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 80 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 12 months, which is June 23, 2022. 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, or unanticipated addition of scope to the review.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
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Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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