

From: Santos, Cayetano
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Brian Whitley (bhwhitle@southernco.com); Chamberlain, Amy
Christine; Grant, Eddie
Cc: Hall, Victor; Tseng, Ian; Scarbrough, Thomas; Wong, Yuken; Bowman,
Greg; Vogtle PEmails
Subject: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING
COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE: ALTERNATIVE
REQUIREMENTS FOR INSERVICE TEST INTERVAL CODE EDITION, UNIT 4
(EPID NO. L-2022-LLR-0035)

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE: ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR INSERVICE TEST
INTERVAL CODE EDITION, UNIT 4 (EPID NO. L-2022-LLR-0035)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated March 22, 2022 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML22081A381), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted an alternative request for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Unit 4. The requested alternative would remove a latest date condition imposed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in its March 2, 2020 authorization of IST-ALT-01 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20045D487). The condition stated that the NRC staff authorized IST-ALT-01 "for initial fuel load dates prior to November 23, 2022."

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC 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 review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the submittal 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 the 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 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 alternative. 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. SNC 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 alternative two months prior to the scheduled date for Unit 4 fuel load. The 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 110 hours to complete this licensing action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-7270 or Cayetano.Santos@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Cayetano (Tanny) Santos
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE: ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR INSERVICE
TEST INTERVAL CODE EDITION, UNIT 4 (EPID NO. L-2022-LLR-0035)

Sent Date: 4/6/2022 8:27:32 AM

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From: Santos, Cayetano

Created By: Cayetano.Santos@nrc.gov

Recipients:

"Hall, Victor" <Victor.Hall@nrc.gov>

Tracking Status: None

"Tseng, Ian" <Ian.Tseng@nrc.gov>

Tracking Status: None

"Scarborough, Thomas" <Thomas.Scarborough@nrc.gov>

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"Wong, Yuken" <Yuken.Wong@nrc.gov>

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"Bowman, Greg" <Gregory.Bowman@nrc.gov>

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"Vogtle PEmails" <Vogtle.PEmails@usnrc.onmicrosoft.com>

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"Brian Whitley (bhwhitle@southernco.com)" <bhwhitle@southernco.com>

Tracking Status: None

"Chamberlain, Amy Christine" <acchambe@southernco.com>

Tracking Status: None

"Grant, Eddie" <X2EDGRAN@SOUTHERNCO.COM>

Tracking Status: None

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