

From: Lamb, John
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 7:02 AM
To: Pournaras, DeLisa S.
Cc: Lowery, Ken G.
Subject: Acceptance Review - Vogtle, Units 1 and 2 - Exemption Request from 10 CFR 50, Appendix K to Use Axiom in 4 LTAs (L-2022-LLE-0021)

DeLisa,

By letter dated June 30, 2022 (ML22181B156), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC, the licensee) submitted an exemption request] for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Units 1 and 2. SNC requests a proposed exemption from the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Appendix K, "ECCS [emergency core cooling systems] Evaluation Models," to permit the use of AXIOM® fuel rod cladding material in 4 lead test assemblies.

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 [amendment/relief] request. 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 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 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 and discussions during the pre-licensing meeting on January 27 (ML22028A046), and May 11, 2022 (ML22132A010), the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 150 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately one year from the date of this email. 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, or review by NRC advisory committees, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Recipients:
"Lowery, Ken G." <KGLOWERY@southernco.com>
Tracking Status: None
"Pournaras, DeLisa S." <DSPOURNA@SOUTHERNCO.COM>
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