

From: Cayetano Santos
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 9:22 AM
To: Brian Whitley (bhwhitle@southernco.com); Dorsey, Keith A.; Chamberlain, Amy Christine; Will Garrett (wgarrett@southernco.com); Leighty, Steven
Cc: Billy Gleaves; Victor Hall; Vogtle PEmails; Matthew Mitchell; Angie Buford; Cory Parker; John Tsao; Stephen Cumblidge; John Honcharik
Subject: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SNC'S REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVES: ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STEAM GENERATOR NOZZLE TO REACTOR COOLANT PUMP CASING WELDS AND ALTERNATIVE USE OF CODE CASE N-648-2 FOR ISI OF THE REACTOR VESSEL NOZZLE INSIDE RADIUS

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 ALTERNATIVES: ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STEAM GENERATOR NOZZLE TO REACTOR COOLANT PUMP CASING WELDS (VEGP 3&4-ISI1-ALT-17) AND ALTERNATIVE USE OF CODE CASE N-648-2 FOR INSERVICE INSPECTION OF THE REACTOR VESSEL NOZZLE INSIDE RADIUS (VEGP 3&4-ISI1-ALT-18) (EPID NOS. L-2022-LLR-0078 AND L-2022-LLR-0079, RESPECTIVELY)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated November 4, 2022 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML22308A156), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a request for two alternatives to the inservice inspection requirements in Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4:

- VEGP 3&4-ISI1-ALT-17, "Alternative Inspection Requirements for Steam Generator Nozzle to Reactor Coolant Pump Casing Welds"
- VEGP 3&4-ISI1-ALT-18, "Alternative for Use of Code Case N-648-2 for Inservice Inspection of the Reactor Vessel Nozzle Inside Radius"

The purpose of this email is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of these requests. 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 submittals have any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plants.

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 NRC staff has reviewed the submittal 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 alternatives. 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 NRC staff approval of these alternatives by August 4, 2023. 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 NRC staff estimates for completing these licensing actions is shown below:

- VEGP 3&4-ISI1-ALT-17 – 265 hours
- VEGP 3&4-ISI1-ALT-18 – 145 hours

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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