

From: John Lamb
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:09 AM
To: Pournaras, DeLisa S.; Lowery, Ken G.
Cc: Chamberlain, Amy Christine
Subject: Acceptance Review - Vogtle Online Monitoring LAR

Importance: High

DeLisa and Ken,

By letter dated December 21, 2022 (Agencywide Documents and Access Management System Accession No. ML22355A588), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC, the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Units 1 and 2. The proposed LAR would revise Vogtle, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs) to add an online monitoring (OLM) system. The proposed LAR would revise TS 1.1, "Use and Application Definitions" and would add TS 5.5.23 "Online Monitoring Program." SNC proposes to use OLM methodology as the technical basis to switch from time-based surveillance frequency for channel calibrations to a condition-based calibration frequency based on OLM results. The proposed LAR is based on the NRC-approved topical report AMS-TR-0720R2-A, "Online Monitoring Technology to Extend Calibration Intervals of Nuclear Plant Pressure Transmitters" (ML21235A493).

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 LAR. 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.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an application for an amendment to a license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your LAR 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 LAR 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 September 13, 2022 (ML22257A236), the NRC staff has estimated that this LAR will take approximately 400 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review by January 11, 2024. 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 LAR and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities. 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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