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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 25, 2018

Mr. Brian H. Whitley, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
3535 Colonnade Parkway, Bin N-226-EC
Birmingham, AL 35243

SUBJECT: VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 – REQUEST FOR
ALTERNATIVE: APPLICATION OF VT-1 VISUAL EXAMINATION
METHODOLOGY FOR PRESERVICE INSPECTION OF REACTOR VESSEL
NOZZLE INNER RADIUS SECTIONS (VEGP 3&4-PSI-ALT-07) (EPID L-2017-
LLA-0085)

Dear Mr. Whitley:

By letter dated July 6, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17192A125), as supplemented by letters dated December 8, 2017, March 8, 2018, and August 31, 2018 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML17342A826, ML18067A287, and ML18243A540, respectively), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., (SNC) submitted an alternative for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Units 3 and 4 – Request for Alternative: Application of VT-1 Visual Examination Methodology for Preservice Inspection of the Reactor Vessel Nozzle Inner Radius Sections (VEGP 3&4-PSI-ALT-07) to the regulations for VEGP Units 3 and 4 pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(z)(1). The requested alternative would allow the use of an alternative to the requirements of Section XI, IWB-2500, of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel (B&PV) Code, 2007 Edition through 2008 Addenda (code of record) for VEGP Units 3 and 4. The proposed request for alternative would allow SNC to perform a VT-1 visual examination for the preservice inspection of the inner radius sections of the reactor vessel inlet, outlet, and direct vessel injection nozzles in lieu of the volumetric examination required by ASME Code, Section XI, Table IWB-2500-1, Examination Category B-D, Item B3.100.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes that SNC has demonstrated that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the NRC staff authorizes the proposed alternative pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1) for VEGP Units 3 and 4.

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B. Whitley

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If you have any questions, please contact Chandu Patel, Senior Project Manager at (301) 415-3025 or Chandu.Patel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Licensing Branch 4
Division of Licensing, Siting,
and Environmental Analysis
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-025 and 52-026

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4 – REQUEST FOR
ALTERNATIVE: APPLICATION OF VT-1 VISUAL EXAMINATION METHODOLOGY FOR
PRESERVICE INSPECTION OF REACTOR VESSEL NOZZLE INNER RADIUS SECTIONS
(VEGP 3&4-PSI-ALT-07) (EPID L-2017-LLA-0085) DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

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(Revised 08/16/2018)

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