



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

December 18, 2017

Ms. Sarah DiTommaso, Manager
AP1000 Licensing and Inspection
1000 Westinghouse Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF OPEN ITEM 99900404/2011-201-02

Dear Ms. DiTommaso:

During the AP1000 Engineering Design Verification (EDV) inspection 99900404/2011-201 (ML112440588) performed at Westinghouse by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in June and July of 2011, NRC inspectors identified Open Item 99900404/2011-201-02 concerning the potential for inadvertent opening of the In-containment Refueling Water Storage Tank (IRWST) squib valves and the resulting impact on the associated piping, pipe supports, check valves, and related components.

To address this issue, by letter dated October 14, 2016 (ML16288A810), and supplemented by letters dated February 23, 2017 (ML17054D204), and May 9, 2017 (ML17129A589), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted License Amendment Request (LAR) 16-018 requesting that the NRC amend the combined licenses (COL) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, COL Nos. NPF-91 and NPF-92, respectively. The specific changes proposed in the LAR would revise the licensing basis documents to add additional design details to the automatic depressurization system (ADS) injection blocking devices and to add new blocking devices to the design of the IRWST injection squib valves actuation logic in the safety-related protection and safety monitoring system (PMS). The purpose of the ADS and IRWST injection blocking devices is to prevent spurious actuations of ADS and IRWST injection valves primarily due to a potential software common cause failure (CCF) in the digital PMS.

In accordance with the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 52.63(b)(1), the licensee also requested an exemption from elements of the design as certified in 10 CFR Part 52, Appendix D, "Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design," for plant-specific Tier 1 information. The requested exemption would allow a departure from the corresponding portions of the certified information in Tier 1 of the generic DCD.

In its safety evaluation dated November 22, 2017 (ML17268A084), NRC staff approved both LAR 16-018 and the exemption request. The NRC therefore concludes that sufficient corrective actions have been taken to prevent inadvertent actuation of the subject squib valves and to close out Open Item 99900404/2011-02.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection in the

NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agency wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Terry W. Jackson, Chief
Quality Assurance Vendor Inspection Branch-1
Division of Construction Inspection
and Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 99900404

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Dated: December 18, 2017

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