

March 8, 2000

Mr. D. N. Morey  
Vice President - Farley Project  
Southern Nuclear Operating  
Company, Inc.  
Post Office Box 1295  
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 AND 2, RE: COMPLETION OF  
LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 98-02 (TAC NOS. MA4785  
AND MA4786)

Dear Mr. Morey:

On May 28, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-02 "Loss of Reactor Coolant Inventory and Associated Potential for Loss of Emergency Mitigation Function While in a Shutdown Condition" to all holders of operating licenses for pressurized water reactors (PWRs), except those who have permanently ceased operations, and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel. We issued GL 98-02 to request PWR licensees to evaluate a September 17, 1994, Wolf Creek event which had the potential to draindown the reactor coolant system (RCS) to the refueling water storage tank. This could render the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and residual heat removal (RHR) system inoperable by introducing a steam/water mixture to the suction side of the ECCS and RHR pumps. GL 98-02 requested licensees to provide certain information to us.

Your letter of October 30, 1998, submitted your response to GL 98-02. You indicated that certain design features at Farley, Units 1 and 2, can render these system susceptible to common-cause failure as a result of events similar to the Wolf Creek event. You also said that a description of the programs, procedures, and controls in place to prevent a similar event occurring at Farley were available at Farley for review in accordance with required information item 2 of GL 98-02.

NRC Region II staff issued Integrated Inspection Report (IR) Nos. 50-348/99-07 and 50-364/99-07 on November 23, 1999. Section E2.1 of this IR indicated that the NRC inspectors reviewed Southern Nuclear Operating Company's (SNC's) administrative controls to prevent RCS draindown including control of locked valves and operating procedures used during shutdown conditions. The inspectors also reviewed operator training on RCS draindown. The inspectors verified that, although the system design was vulnerable to the event described in the GL, SNC's procedure does not allow the system lineup for equalizing the boron concentration in the RHR system. Also, SNC was implementing recurring training on this issue. The inspectors concluded that SNC had adequately reviewed the Information Notice 95-03 "Loss of Reactor Coolant Inventory and Partial Loss of Emergency Mitigation Functions While in a Shutdown Condition" and GL 98-02 and appropriate controls were in place to prevent this from occurring at Farley.

D. N. Morey

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Accordingly, we conclude that you provided all the information requested by GL 98-02 and that your on-site activities adequately addressed the GL 98-02 concerns at Farley, Units 1 and 2.

Therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for the Farley Nuclear Plant. Please contact me at (301) 415-1423 if you have any questions about this.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

L. Mark Padovan, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

cc: See next page

D. N. Morey

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Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

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