

May 19, 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, UNITS 1 AND 2, RE: STEAM
GENERATOR TUBE LASER-WELDED SLEEVE WELD WIDTH ISSUE
CLOSEOUT (TAC NOS. MA3296 AND MA3297)

Dear Mr. Morey:

We consider the steam generator (SG) tube laser-welded sleeve weld width issue at Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Units 1 and 2, to be closed. We previously approved installing laser-welded sleeves, using Westinghouse repair methodology, as an alternative to plugging defective SG tubes at FNP. Subsequently, Westinghouse identified a weld width methodology concern. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Westinghouse agreed to adopt an additional weld width criterion to resolve this concern as explained in the paragraph below. You committed in your letter of March 20, 2000, to implement the additional weld width criterion on a forward-fit basis for FNP, Units 1 and 2. Your commitment to implement Westinghouse's recommendations gives us reasonable assurance that SG tube integrity will be maintained should you use the SG repair methodology on Unit 2. We understand that you are currently installing replacement SGs at FNP Unit 1, plan to replace the Unit 2 SGs at the next refueling outage, and do not plan to install additional sleeves at FNP.

Westinghouse's letter of February 29, 2000, to the NRC recommended adding a criterion to the inspection procedure requiring a minimum average weld width of 21 mils for future welds. Also, you must perform an engineering evaluation on any welds of lesser average width to determine their adequacy. The engineering evaluation is to allow only infrequent acceptance of welds with average widths as small as, but not less than, 19 mils. Please call me at (301) 415-1423 if you have any questions.

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

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Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

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