



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

July 13, 2000

EA-00-100

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. D. N. Morey
Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: FARLEY UNIT TWO SERVICE WATER SYSTEM INOPERABILITY - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.0.5 ENTERED DUE TO SERVICE WATER LUBRICATION AND COOLING PUMPS INOPERABLE (INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-348, 50-364/00-02)

Dear Mr. Morey:

This is in reference to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection conducted from February 27 to April 1, 2000, at your Farley Nuclear Plant facility. The results of the inspection were formally transmitted to you in Inspection Report Nos. 50-348, 50-364/00-02 by letter dated May 1, 2000. During this inspection period the NRC determined that, on February 7, 2000, Farley Unit 2 was operated in a condition that could have prevented the service water system from performing its intended design function which resulted in the identification of an apparent violation of Technical Specification 3.0.5. The May 1 letter provided you the opportunity to either respond in writing to the apparent violation or request a predecisional enforcement conference. By telephone conversations on May 10, 2000 and May 18, 2000, you initially requested a predecisional enforcement conference. However, prior to the predecisional enforcement conference, you elected to respond in writing to the apparent violation so the predecisional enforcement conference was postponed. By letter dated June 9, 2000, and revision 2 of Licensee Event Report (LER) 50-364/2000-01, you provided additional information that demonstrated the service water system was capable of performing its intended safety function for the specific configuration that existed on February 7.

Based on the information developed during our inspection and the additional information provided in your June 9 letter and LER 50-364/2000-01-02, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation involves compliance with Technical Specification 3.0.5 because both trains of the service water system were inoperable. However, based on the vendor's analysis described in LER 50-364/2000-01-02, the NRC has concluded that the service water system could have performed its intended safety function on February 7 if called upon. Due to the low safety significance of this issue, the violation has been categorized as a Severity Level IV violation in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions" NUREG-1600 issued on November 9, 1999. In addition, the NRC has concluded that this violation should be characterized as a non-cited violation, in accordance with Section VII.B.1.a of that Enforcement Policy. For tracking purposes, the NRC will administratively document this non-cited violation and closure of Escalated Enforcement Item 50-364/00-02-01 in Inspection Report Nos. 50-348, 50-364/00-03.

You are not required to respond to this letter unless the description herein does not adequately reflect your position.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and any response you choose to provide will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Stephen Cahill at (404) 562-4520.

Sincerely,
/RA/
Victor M. McCree, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-364
License No. NPF-8

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