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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Implementation of Revised 10 CFR 50.59

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The effective date for the revised 10 CFR 50.59 was established in a December 13, 2000, Federal Register notice (65 FR 77773), as March 13, 2001. As discussed in Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2001-03, dated January 23, 2001, the NRC has stated that to permit an orderly transition to the revised rule, licensees may implement the rule later than this date. Although an exemption is not necessary, the RIS suggested that a licensee should communicate its implementation plan to the NRC. It is Southern Nuclear Operating Company's (SNC's) intention to implement the revised requirements of 10 CFR 50.59 at Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), and Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) beginning on June 1, 2001.

SNC believes it is prudent to have a common implementation date for its nuclear facilities especially since preparation for the transition has involved common training, procedure revisions, and guidance. Organizational resources also provide support to all three plants. This would reduce confusion on which revision of 10 CFR 50.59 an individual should be considering when implementing a change, test, or experiment at any given location. Additionally, FNP and VEGP both have Spring 2001 refueling outages which will not be completed until May 2001. As such, SNC does not want to transition to the revised 10 CFR 50.59 during a refueling outage since this activity would place an unnecessary burden on the plant staff and would not be in the best interest of safety.

The following discussion delineates the transition criteria SNC plans to use to phase in the revised 10 CFR 50.59:

- Effective June 1, 2001, all new 10 CFR 50.59 screen/evaluations will be prepared in accordance with the new 10 CFR 50.59 requirements using the guidance contained in NEI 96-07, Revision 1.

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- All 10 CFR 50.59 screen/evaluations completed before June 1, 2001 will be prepared in accordance with the old 10 CFR 50.59 requirements. Therefore, a 10 CFR 50.59 screen/evaluation that is completed in accordance with the old 10 CFR 50.59 requirements prior to June 1, 2001, but will not be implemented until following that date, shall be considered acceptable for use.
- A 10 CFR 50.59 screen/evaluation that is completed in accordance with the old 10 CFR 50.59 requirements prior to June 1, 2001, but requires revision subsequent to that date, will be completely revised in accordance with the new 10 CFR 50.59 requirements.
- Completion date is defined as the date the originating organization (e.g., architect/engineer, nuclear steam supply vendor, health physics, operations, etc.) completes the 10 CFR 50.59 screen/evaluation.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please contact this office.

Respectfully submitted,



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Page 3

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

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Mr. P. H. Wells, General Manager - Plant Hatch

Mr. J. T. Gasser, General Manager - Plant Vogtle

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

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