

November 7, 1991

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Docket Nos. 50-348
and 50-364

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President
Alabama Power Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
ADDITION OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR TO LICENSE - JOSEPH M. FARLEY
NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. 80371 AND 80372)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact" for your information. This environmental assessment
relates to your application dated May 6, 1991, as supplemented June 18,
June 20, September 27, October 14, and October 22, 1991.

This environmental assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal
Register for publication.

Sincerely,

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Stephen T. Hoffman, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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NAME	:PAnderson	:SK:dt	:SHoffman	:EAdams	:
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Alabama Power Company

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONALABAMA POWER COMPANYJOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2DOCKET NOS. 50-348 AND 50-364ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-2 and NPF-8 issued to Alabama Power Company (the licensee) for operation of Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (FNP), located in Houston County, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action

By letter dated May 6, 1991, as supplemented by letters dated June 18, June 20, September 27, October 14, and October 22, 1991, Alabama Power Company proposed amendments that would authorize Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (Southern Nuclear), to become the operator of FNP. Southern Nuclear would be the exclusive operating licensee, to possess, manage, use, operate, and maintain FNP. Alabama Power Company would continue to be the owner of the facility. Southern Nuclear would have no entitlement to power output from FNP or authority to dispatch, broker, or market the energy generated. This authority would be retained by Alabama Power Company.

As described in the application, Alabama Power Company and Southern Nuclear are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Southern Company. Southern Nuclear was formed in December 1990 for the purpose of consolidating into a

single organization personnel within the Southern Electric System engaged in nuclear operations. Alabama Power Company stated that there would be no significant change in nuclear power or support organizations for FNP. The onsite nuclear generation organization currently responsible for the physical operation of FNP would be transferred intact to Southern Nuclear.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed changes are needed to reflect the addition of Southern Nuclear as the licensed operator for FNP. Southern Nuclear would have exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation and maintenance of the facility. The purpose of incorporating Southern Nuclear was to establish an organization which would consolidate personnel within the Southern Electric System engaged in nuclear operations into a single, integrated organization to pursue a higher degree of performance in multiple-unit nuclear operations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

No changes resulting from the proposed amendments are anticipated in the on-site nuclear generation organization, except that all FNP employees of Alabama Power Company would become employees of Southern Nuclear and, where appropriate, titles would be changed to reflect the exclusive operating status of Southern Nuclear. The off-site corporate organizations will continue to provide support and quality assurance organizations for FNP. Functional areas for the off-site FNP support group will include administrative, emergency planning, licensing, engineering, maintenance and outage support services. There will be no significant changes in the FNP nuclear organization.

Also, there will be no changes to the facility or to the operating, maintenance, engineering or other nuclear-related personnel as a result of the proposed license amendments. Accordingly, the Commission concluded that this proposed action would result in no radiological or nonradiological environmental impact.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendments. This would not reduce the environmental impact of plant operations and would result in the Facility Operating Licenses and Technical Specifications not properly reflecting the organizational relationships between Alabama Power Company, Southern Nuclear and the FNP.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, dated December 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendments.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated May 6, 1991, as supplemented by letters dated June 18, June 20, September 27, October 14, and October 22, 1991, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and at the Houston-Love Memorial Library, 212 W. Burdeshaw Street, P.O. Box 1369, Dothan, Alabama 36302.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of November 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by:

Stephen T. Hoffman, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

*See Previous Concurrence

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Farley Plant

cc: Plant Service list