

June 25, 1998

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

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4); JOSEPH M.
FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA0673 AND MA0674)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant
Impact" related to your request dated January 19, 1998, for an exemption from a requirement of
10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report 6 months
after each refueling outage for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. This
assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Jacob I. Zimmerman, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 25, 1998

Mr. D. N. Morey
Vice President - Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
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RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4); JOSEPH M.
FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA0673 AND MA0674)

Dear Mr. Morey:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request dated January 19, 1998, for an exemption from a requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report 6 months after each refueling outage for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jacob I. Zimmerman".

Jacob I. Zimmerman, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC.

DOCKET NOS. 50-348 AND 50-364

JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.71(e)(4), for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-2 and NPF-8 issued to Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., et al. (the licensee) for operation of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Units 1 and 2, located in Houston County, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the FNP, Units 1 and 2, Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would submit UFSAR updates to the single, unified Farley UFSAR for the two units within 6 months following the FNP Unit 1 refueling outage, not to exceed 24 months from the last submittal.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated January 19, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would provide an exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4), which requires licensees to submit updates to their UFSAR within 6 months after each refueling outage providing that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since FNP, Units 1 and 2, share a common UFSAR, the licensee must update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. Allowing the exemption would maintain the UFSAR current within 24 months of the last revision and still would not exceed a 24-month interval from submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report for either unit.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that issuance of the proposed exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) is an administrative change unrelated to plant operation.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the occupational or offsite radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other nonradiological environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the FNP, "Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2," dated December 1974 and its Addendum, NUREG-0727, dated September 1980.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 2, 1998, the staff consulted with the Alabama State official, Mr. K. Whatley of the Alabama Department of Public Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

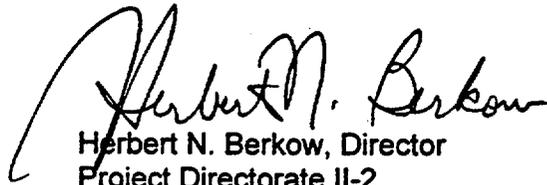
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated January 19, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Houston - Love Memorial Library, 212 W. Burdeshaw Street, P.O. Box 1369, Dothan, Alabama.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of June 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert N. Berkow". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name and title.

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation