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November 26, 2002

Docket Nos.: 50-321 50-348 50-424
50-366 50-364 50-425

HL-6331
NEL-02-0238
LCV-1641

Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

Southern Nuclear Operating Company Reorganization

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Over the last several months, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) has been evaluating the benefits of merging the nuclear plant engineering support functions of our sister company, Southern Company Services, Inc. (SCS), into the operating company. This effort has included careful consideration of the licensing requirements and commitments of SNC as the licensed operator of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant and the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant. Based on these evaluations, on December 11, 2002, a significant portion of the contracted support formally provided by SCS will begin to be provided in-house by SNC. SNC has ensured that the plant Safety Audit and Engineering Review (now referred to as Quality Assurance) programs remain unchanged.

The purpose of this letter is to document, as a result of a telephone conversation between SNC executive management and NRC representatives, SNC's plan to implement this new organization on December 11, 2002. Some portions of the organization may be in place and functioning prior to this date; however, these interim organizational configurations will likewise continue to provide the functional support to the plants as is required by our licenses.

As a matter of business, the new SNC Quality Assurance department (previously Safety Audit and Engineering Review) will be providing the Quality Assurance oversight for the engineering support organization formally performed by SCS Quality Assurance. Evaluations in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(a) have been performed regarding the necessary revisions to each of the plant's Quality Assurance Programs to facilitate these changes. The persons and organizations performing quality assurance functions will continue to have the requisite authority and organizational freedom, including sufficient independence from cost and schedule when opposed to safety considerations. It has been determined that these changes to the Quality Assurance Programs do not reduce the commitments in the program descriptions as accepted by the NRC.

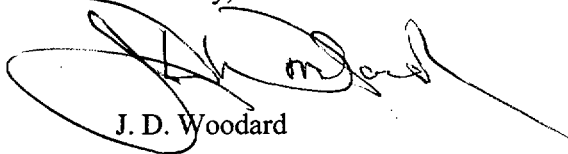
Likewise, other changes to the FSAR were necessary. Evaluations in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 have been performed regarding those changes and it has been determined that prior approval by the NRC is not necessary to implement these changes. These evaluations have been reviewed by the plant review boards at each of the three sites.

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Accordingly, all these changes will be submitted to the NRC in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e) as part of the FSAR update process.

Should you have additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



J. D. Woodard

JDW/JMG

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr., Vice President, Plant Farley
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Vice President, Plant Vogtle
Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr., Vice President, Plant Hatch
Mr. G. R. Frederick, General Manager - Plant Vogtle
Mr. D. E. Grissette, General Manager - Plant Farley
Mr. P. H. Wells, General Manager - Plant Hatch
Document Management

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Mr. F. Rinaldi, Farley Project Manager
Mr. J. Colaccino, Project Manager - Hatch
Mr. F. Rinaldi, Vogtle Project Manager

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II

Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
Mr. T. P. Johnson, Senior Resident Inspector - Farley
Mr. J. T. Munday, Senior Resident Inspector - Hatch
Mr. J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector - Vogtle