



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

March 11, 2003

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

**SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS -
JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT 50-348/2003-301 AND 50-364/2003-301**

Dear Mr. Beasley:

In a telephone conversation on February 28, 2002, between John Horn, Operations Training Manager and myself, arrangements were made for the preparation of licensing examinations at the Farley Nuclear Plant based on the guidelines in Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," instead of Revision 8, Supplement 1 as agreed upon in our letter dated December 16, 2002.

Arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Farley Nuclear Plant during the week of May 19 and 26, 2003 (operating test) and the week of May 26, 2003 (written examination). The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of May 5, 2003.

Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the examinations during the week of April 28, 2003. The facility has agreed to fill in the scenario details (ES-D-2) and the details of the Job Performance Measures. The facility has also agreed to make all necessary copies of the examinations prior to administration.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examination is being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0101), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Horn has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Lee R. Miller at (404) 562-4676, (Internet E-mail: LRM@NRC.GOV), or myself at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: MEE@NRC.GOV).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael E. Ernstes, Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-348, 50-364
License Nos. NPF-2, NPF-8

cc: (See page 3)

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