

November 26, 2003

Dr. Lee Warner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL REVIEW
(REFERENCE NO. AHC 02-0940)

Dear Dr. Warner:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating licenses for Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (FNP), which is located in Houston County, Alabama, on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River. FNP is operated by Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC). The application for renewal was submitted by SNC on September 15, 2003, pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54). The NRC has established that, as part of the staff review of any nuclear power plant license renewal action, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437, will be prepared under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC rules that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, the SEIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. A draft SEIS is scheduled for publication in August of 2004, and will be provided to you for review and comment.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Agency official (the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC) has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The APE may extend beyond the immediate environs in those instances where post-license renewal land disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities, specifically related to license renewal, may potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites located beyond the immediate environs of the proposed site. This determination is made irrespective of ownership or control of the lands of interest.

While preparing its application, SNC contacted your office by letter dated May 7, 2002, and your office responded on June 11, 2002. In its letter, SNC stated that the operation of FNP will not adversely affect cultural or historical resources in the area because SNC does not have any plans to alter current operations over the license renewal period. SNC further stated that no expansion of existing facilities is planned, and that no major structural modifications have been identified for the purpose of license renewal. Also, no land-disturbing activities are anticipated beyond those required for routine maintenance and repairs. The June 11, 2002, Alabama Historical Commission response letter determined that the project activities will have no effect on any known cultural resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

L. Warner

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On January 8, 2004, the NRC will conduct two public NEPA scoping meetings at the Quality Inn, 3053 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan, Alabama, 36301-1121. You and your staff are invited to attend. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is August 2004. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS for review and comment. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Environmental Project Manager for the FNP project, Mr. Jack Cushing at 301-415-1424 or JXC9@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 50-348, 50-364

cc: See next page

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Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

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