

December 18, 2003

Mr. James H. Reading
Commissioner-District 1
3104 Springfield Lane
Dothan, Alabama 36303

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF THE OPERATING LICENSES FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Reading:

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received your letter dated October 30, 2003, related to the application of Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) to extend the operating licenses for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (FNP), for an additional 20-year period. We appreciate your initiative in writing the letter and letting us know of your support for the renewal of the FNP operating licenses.

Public involvement is a key element in NRC's reactor license renewal process. One of the NRC's performance goals is to enhance public confidence, and we regard public outreach as a top priority in the work we do. All meetings with the applicant on safety issues are open to the public. The NRC holds meetings with the public to discuss the scope of the NRC's environmental review.

For your information, the NRC staff will hold two public meetings on January 8, 2004, in Dothan, Alabama, on the environmental review related to the application of SNC to renew the FNP operating licenses. Members of the public are invited to attend and comment on environmental issues that the NRC should consider in its review of the proposed license renewal. These meetings will be at the Quality Inn in Dothan, Alabama. There will be two similar sessions, one at 1:30 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. In addition, the NRC staff will host informal discussions 1 hour before each meeting. NRC staff members will be available to answer questions and provide additional information about the process during these informal sessions. Comments on environmental issues will be accepted during formal meetings only.

All documents and correspondence related to the FNP license renewal application are placed in the NRC's Public Document Room in Rockville, Maryland, and can be accessed through the Public Electronic Reading Room. Members of the public may access the Electronic Reading Room libraries from computers with Internet access by going to <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/pdr.html>. NRC documents may also be obtained from Houston Love Memorial Library, 212 West Burdeshaw Street, Dothan, Alabama 36301.

J. Reading

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Thank you again in writing to us of your interest in the FNP license renewal. If you have any questions on FNP license renewal, please contact Ms. Tilda Liu, FNP license renewal project manager, at (301) 415-1315 or tyl1@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 and 50-364

J. Reading

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