

Southeast Alabama

**MEDICAL
CENTER**

December 30, 2003

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: P. T. Kuo
One White Flint
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

This communication stands as a letter of support for the license renewal application of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, located in Houston County, Alabama, as filed by Southern Nuclear Operating Company. Southeast Alabama Medical Center has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Plant Farley since its inception in the early 70s.

One area of positive relationship is in disaster management. While the Medical Center serves as a vital resource for Farley in the event of a radiological disaster, we also depend on Farley's expertise to support our response to radiological community events. Farley personnel provide continued support all of our radiation drill activities, as well as many training components. Each and every year, Farley scholarships four Medical Center employees to attend the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center / Training Site at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Farley staff members assist in our readiness by routinely inspecting and monitoring our emergency radiological equipment and supplies.

Through our interaction with the Dothan Houston County Emergency Management Agency, we have witnessed a committed effort by Farley to provide a high level of confidence within the community regarding safety. Our staff has been involved and has witnessed first hand how Farley educates and trains citizens, community leaders, and emergency personnel in areas of preparedness.

Plant Farley, along with its employees, is a good neighbor to the Wiregrass area. We are fully aware of Farley's positive economic impact within our community. We know through previous site visits to the plant and comments from our employees living in the Farley area, that they truly have a positive environmental commitment. We have witnessed time and again how not only the organization Farley but also its individual employees have stepped up to the plate to support so many needs in the community such as the United Way.

Leading the Southeast in Healthcare

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As a final statement, the 2400 employees that make up Southeast Alabama Medical Center certainly enjoy an improved quality of life because Plant Farley provides our community with safe, reliable and affordable electrical power. Because of this, we fully support Southern Nuclear Operating Company's effort to re-license Plant Farley for an additional 20 years.

Thank you for allowing me to share our thoughts regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald S. Owen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ronald S. Owen
Chief Executive Officer**