

February 6, 2004

APPLICANT: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

FACILITY: Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELECOMMUNICATION WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY (SNC) TO DISCUSS ITEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITE AUDIT FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE OPERATING LICENSE FOR THE FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

On January 23, 2004, the NRC staff (the staff) and its experts from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and representatives from SNC held a conference call (telecon) to discuss items resulting from the environmental site audit conduct on January 7, 2004. Enclosure 1 is the list of participants. SNC has had an opportunity to review and comment on this summary. During the site audit a number of documents were identified by the staff as potentially needed for the staff to complete its review. The telecon was held to finalize the documents that SNC needs to submit.

The staff requested the following documentation.

1. Documentation describing the maintenance schedule for the transmission line right-of-ways (ROW) for the transmission lines within the scope of license renewal for Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

Response: SNC agreed to identify ROW contractors and provide a general schedule of maintenance activities. In addition SNC will provide selected sections of ROW contracts for transmission line maintenance that describe maintenance activities and requirements.

2. What type of training and procedures do the contractors that maintain the transmission lines ROWs have to identify threaten or endangered species?

Response: SNC will provide as an example a copy of a brush report that the contractors use to identify where threaten or endangered species are located.

3. The staff asked if there was any documentation of bird strikes on the transmission lines within the scope of license renewal.

Response: SNC said that there was no documented bird strikes on the transmission lines within the scope of license renewal.

4. The 1999 Wildlife Certification application.

Response: SNC agreed to provide the 1999 Wildlife Certification application.

5. What is the route for the gas pipeline for the alternative described in the environmental report (ER)?

Response: SNC stated that the gas pipeline route would follow an existing transmission line ROW. SNC will provide a drawing, showing the route of the gas pipeline.

6. What improvements are needed to the rail line relative to the alternative described in the ER?

Response: SNC stated that possible replacement of the track, ties, bed maintenance and upgrading to rail bridges. SNC will provide a statement of potential upgrades.

7. Is the rail loop in previously undisturbed area?

Response: SNC will provide response.

8. If a barge facility is needed for the alternatives, are there any modifications needed including maintenance dredging and permits required for this activity?

Response: SNC will provide response.

9. Discuss the issues related to releases of water for equipment delivery via barges to Farley Nuclear Plant. Include in the discussion the frequency of expected barge traffic for FNP.

Response: SNC will provide response.

10. Provide a general description of how the non-radioactive wasted streams are handled.

Response: SNC agreed to provide a general write up describing the non-radioactive waste streams.

11. The discussion of cooling water usage on page 4-4 of the ER is confusing. Please clarify.

Response: SNC agreed to provide a discussion and a one-line diagram showing the flow path annotated with the water usage for each path.

12. Provide a more detailed description of the radioactive waste processing system.

Response: SNC agreed to provide a description similar to the lesson plans used to train the operators.

13. The staff requested the following:

- Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) letter of Air Quality compliance
- 3 years of annual hourly meteorological data, including annual joint frequency summaries and the data used to develop it
- Certificate of water use
- 1 year of both the State and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) submitted National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Monitoring Report

Response: SNC agreed to provide the documents.

14. Section 5.0 of the environmental report (ER) provides a description of the process used to identify new and significant information. The process description provides insufficient details for the staff to evaluate the conclusion that SNC is aware of no new and significant information regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed license renewals. Provide the steps in the process which SNC followed to reach the determination that it was not aware of any new and significant information.

Response: SNC agreed to provide the steps in the process used to reach its conclusion on new and significant information.

15. Section 4.13, Electric Shock from Transmission-Line-Induced Currents, of the ER states that the Farley-Snowdown line analysis indicates a 5.1 milliampere induced current. The National Electric Safety Code (NESC) for preventing electric shock from induced currents recommends a limit of 5 milliamperes and the *Code of Federal Regulations* in 10 CFR 51.53(c)(3)(ii)(H) recognizes the NESC recommendation. By way of comparison the setting for ground fault interrupters used in residential electrical wiring is 4 to 6 milliamperes.

Please identify measures that could be taken to meet the standards and which measures, if any, SNC plans to undertake which will result in the transmission lines meeting the standard. If measures are not taken to meet the standards, identify the mitigation measures, if any that are planned to reduce the potential impact.

Response: SNC agreed to respond.

16. Section 3.1.3, Transmission Facilities, of the ER identifies all of the transmission lines from FNP to the first substation that connect FNP to the grid. One line, the Farley to Raccoon Creek transmission line was evaluated in the original Final Environmental Statement extending approximately 40 miles further to Tifton Georgia. The addition of a substation at Raccoon Creek does not shorten the length of the transmission line within the scope of the environmental review. The staff requested that SNC provide the necessary information for the approximately 40-mile stretch of transmission line from Raccoon Creek to Tifton Georgia.

Response: SNC agreed to provide the information.

17. In Section 4.21, Environmental Justice (EJ), of the ER, SNC states that because it has determined that there are no significant offsite environmental impacts associated with renewal of the operating licenses for FNP, then no member of the public will be substantially affected.

Therefore, there can be no disproportionately high impacts and/or adverse impacts on any member of the public including minority or low income populations. Based on the above, SNC concluded that a qualitative review of the potential EJ impacts is adequate and no mitigation measures need to be described.

The NRC guidance to the staff on this issue is provided in Office Instruction LIC 203, Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues. The guidance states that:

Reviewers should recognize that the impacts to minority or low-income populations may be different from impacts on the general population due to a community's distinct cultural practices. In addition, reviewers should take into account different patterns of living and consumption of natural resources, such as subsistence consumption.

A qualitative review based on a review of the potential impacts on the general population is not sufficient to determine the EJ impacts on a minority or low-income population due to the community's distinct cultural practices.

Response: SNC agreed to provide its EJ review.

18. The NRC acknowledge that it had received a copy of the letter SNC had sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the attached CD. The information provided on the attached CD will not need to be resubmitted.

/RA/

Jack Cushing, Project Manager
Environmental Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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DISTRIBUTION Summary of Telecommunication with SNC,Re: Farley, Dated: February 6, 2004

ML040370636

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