



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
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April 6, 2004

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. L. M. Stinson
Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

**SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL RETAKE
EXAMINATIONS - FARLEY NUCLEAR STATION 05000348/2004-301 AND
05000364/2004-301**

Dear Mr. Stinson:

In a Meeting on March 31, 2004, between Mr. Gary Ohmstede, Operations Training, and Mr. George Hopper, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of a licensing retake written examination at the Farley Nuclear Station on August 24, 2004.

As agreed during this conversation, your staff will prepare the 100 point Senior Reactor Operator examination based on the guidelines in Draft Revision 9, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The facility has also agreed to make all necessary copies of the examination prior to administration. The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examination is administered.

To meet the above schedule, Mr. Ohmstede agreed that your staff will furnish the examination outline by May 3, 2004. The written examination and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by July 1, 2004. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outline and examination before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examination to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examination it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402.

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 Part 55 (3150-0018), which expires on June 30, 2006. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, 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 BJ51@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.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Ohmstede 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 George Hopper at (404) 562-4645, (Internet E-mail: GTH1@NRC.GOV), or myself at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: MEE@NRC.GOV).

Sincerely,

/RA BY L. Miller Acting For/

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)

(cc cont'd)

B. D. McKinney, Licensing
Services Manager, B-031
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

D. E. Grissette
General Manager, Farley Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
RSA Tower - Administration
Suite 1552
P. O. Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

M. Stanford Blanton
Balch and Bingham Law Firm
P. O. Box 306
1710 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35201

William D. Oldfield
Quality Assurance Supervisor
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Electronic Mail Distribution

Charles D. Nesbitt, Plant Training &
Emergency Preparedness Manager
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
P. O. Box 470
Ashford, AL 36312

SNC

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