November 12, 2004

Mr. L. M. Stinson
Vice President - Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 RE: CLARIFICATION OF SAFETY EVALUATION (TAC NOS. MC4186 AND MC4187)

Dear Mr. Stinson:

By letter dated September 30, 2004 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System ML042780424[1]), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Amendment No. 166 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-2 and Amendment No. 158 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-8 for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The amendments address the control room habitability guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.196, "Control Room Habitability at Light-Water Nuclear Power Reactors," by revising Limiting Condition for Operation 3.7.10, "Control Room Emergency Filtration/Pressurization System (CREFS)" and technical specification (TS) 5.5.11, "Ventilation Filter Testing Program." The amendments also added a new section, TS 5.5.18, "Control Room Integrity Program (CRIP)." Subsequently, your staff sought clarification as to the schedule for performing new and revised surveillance requirements (SRs).

At the time of its review, the NRC staff understood that the new and revised SRs would become effective at the time of implementation of these amendments. All of the new requirements are considered to have been met upon implementation, with the first performance of the new SRs scheduled to be completed within the required interval from the date of implementation. The schedule for performing new and revised SRs shall be as follows:

1. For SRs that are new in these amendments, the first performance is due at the end of the first surveillance interval that begins on the date of implementation of these amendments.

2. For SRs that existed prior to these amendments that have modified acceptance criteria, the first performance is due at the end of the first surveillance interval that began on the date the surveillance was last performed prior to the implementation of these amendments.

3. For SRs that existed prior to these amendments whose intervals of performance are being extended, the first extended surveillance interval begins upon completion of the last surveillance performed prior to implementation of these amendments.

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[1]Public access to ADAMS has been temporarily suspended so that security reviews of publicly available documents may be performed and potentially sensitive information removed. Please check the NRC Web site for updates on the resumption of ADAMS access.

If your staff would like any further clarification on these issues, please contact me at (301) 415-1842.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Sean E. Peters, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

cc: See next page

If your staff would like any further clarification on these issues, please contact me at (301) 415-1842.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Sean E. Peters, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

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Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 & 2

cc:

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