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SOUTHERN COMPANY
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NL-05-2127

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant – Unit 2
2B Charging Pump

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to document the resolution of the replacement 2B charging pump casing and discharge head discussed during the October 20, October 25, and October 31, 2005 conference calls between Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Staff.

A replacement pump casing and discharge head, originally designated and "N" stamped per ASME Section III for Code Class 2 service, had not been continuously controlled as safety related ASME Code Class 2 parts since 1984 per the storage requirements of 10 CFR 50 Appendix B. Thus, the original as-built ASME Section III level of quality had to be evaluated before the pump casing and discharge head could be used as Section XI replacements.

During the October 20 and 25, 2005 conference calls, three methods were discussed to disposition the questions related to storage and control of these parts, which would allow returning the 2B charging pump to service during the 2R17 refueling outage. The initial method was to obtain NRC approval of an alternative to ASME Section XI. Based on discussions during these conference calls, SNC determined that requesting NRC approval of an alternative to Section XI would not be appropriate. The second method was for SNC to disposition this issue within the SNC corrective action program and return the 2B charging pump to service. Also, use of Generic Letter 89-09 was considered as a third method for SNC to disposition this issue. SNC has determined that the appropriate process to disposition this issue and return the 2B charging pump to service is for SNC to document the pump casing and discharge head acceptability within the corrective action program.

The status and proposed disposition of this issue was again discussed during an October 31, 2005 conference call between SNC and the NRC (NRR and Region II) Staff. The installation of the replacement pump casing and discharge head replacement has been implemented with a design change. The 2B charging pump is considered operable and has been returned to service.

This letter contains no NRC commitments. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rick Graham at (205) 992-5808.

Sincerely,

L. M. Stinson

LMS/DRG/sdl

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
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Mr. J. R. Johnson, General Manager – Plant Farley
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dr. W. D. Travers, Regional Administrator
Mr. R. E. Martin, NRR Project Manager – Farley
Mr. C. A. Patterson, Senior Resident Inspector – Farley