

June 16, 2006

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

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 AND 2 - RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2004-01, "INSPECTIONS OF ALLOY 82/182/600 MATERIALS USED IN THE FABRICATION OF PRESSURIZER PENETRATIONS AND STEAM SPACE PIPING CONNECTIONS AT PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTORS (TAC NOS. MC3478 AND MC3479)

Dear Mr. Stinson:

On May 28, 2004, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2004-01, "Inspections of Alloy 82/182/600 Materials Used in the Fabrication of Pressurizer Penetrations and Steam Space Piping Connections at Pressurized-Water Reactors," to the industry. This bulletin informed addressees that current methods of inspecting the pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping connections fabricated from Alloy 82/182/600 materials may need to be supplemented with additional measures (e.g., bare-metal visual inspections) to detect pressurizer penetration and steam space piping connection flaws or leakage. The bulletin requested that addressees provide the NRC with information related to the materials of construction, the inspections that have been performed, and the inspections which will be performed to verify the integrity of the pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping connections.

By letter dated July 26, 2004, and by a supplemental letter dated October 21, 2004, the Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) provided its responses to items 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d of Bulletin 2004-01 for the Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Units 1 and 2. SNC's responses described its materials of fabrication and past, current, and future pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping inspection programs at FNP.

SNC's response to item 1a reported that some of the materials used in the fabrication of the pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping connections were Alloy 82/182/600 materials. This reply required you to provide further responses to the remaining items in the bulletin.

In response to item 1b, SNC described prior inspections and inspection results of pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping connections which had been performed at FNP. SNC's response included the basis for concluding that FNP satisfies the applicable regulatory requirements related to the integrity of pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping connections.

In response to item 1c in the bulletin, SNC provided a description of the Alloy 82/182/600 pressurizer penetration and steam space piping connection inspection program that will be

implemented at your plant during the next and subsequent refueling outages. The description included the items to be inspected; the percent coverage that would be performed at each location; the inspection methods to be used; the qualification standards for the inspection methods and personnel; the process used to resolve any inspection indications; the inspection documentation to be generated; and the basis for concluding that your plant will satisfy the applicable regulatory requirements related to the structural and leakage integrity of pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping connections. If leaking pressurizer penetrations or steam space piping connections are found, SNC indicated that followup nondestructive examination (NDE) will be performed to characterize flaws in the leaking penetrations. SNC provided its plans for expansion of the scope of NDE to be performed if circumferential flaws are found in any portion of the leaking pressurizer penetrations or steam space piping connections.

In response to item 1d in the bulletin, SNC explained why the inspection program identified in the response to item 1c in the bulletin is adequate for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the FNP reactor coolant pressure boundary and for meeting all applicable regulatory requirements which pertain to your facility.

By letters dated January 11, 2005, for FNP Unit 1 and December 20, 2005, for FNP Unit 2, you provided a response to item 2a in Bulletin 2004-01. These letters provided a statement to the NRC indicating that the inspections described in your response to item 1c of the bulletin were completed during recent outages and a description of the as-found condition of the locations inspected was provided.

The NRC staff has completed its activities associated with the review of SNC's responses to Bulletin 2004-01 and finds SNC's response to be acceptable. It should be noted that industry commitments or staff regulatory actions may result in the need for you to modify your plans for the inspection and repair of items discussed in Bulletin 2004-01. It is the staff's expectation that you will revise your plan for the inspection and repair of items discussed in Bulletin 2004-01 consistent with other industry commitments or staff regulatory actions.

Based on its review of SNC's responses to NRC Bulletin 2004-01, the NRC staff finds that SNC has met the requirements of the bulletin. Accordingly, TAC Nos. MC3478 and MC3479 are closed for FNP.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Martin, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operator Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 50-364

cc: See next page

June 16, 2006

included the items to be inspected; the percent coverage that would be performed at each location; the inspection methods to be used; the qualification standards for the inspection methods and personnel; the process used to resolve any inspection indications; the inspection documentation to be generated; and the basis for concluding that your plant will satisfy the applicable regulatory requirements related to the structural and leakage integrity of pressurizer penetrations and steam space piping connections. If leaking pressurizer penetrations or steam space piping connections are found, SNC indicated that followup nondestructive examination (NDE) will be performed to characterize flaws in the leaking penetrations. SNC provided its plans for expansion of the scope of NDE to be performed if circumferential flaws are found in any portion of the leaking pressurizer penetrations or steam space piping connections.

In response to item 1d in the bulletin, SNC explained why the inspection program identified in the response to item 1c in the bulletin is adequate for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the FNP reactor coolant pressure boundary and for meeting all applicable regulatory requirements which pertain to your facility.

By letters dated January 11, 2005, for FNP Unit 1 and December 20, 2005, for FNP Unit 2, you provided a response to item 2a in Bulletin 2004-01. These letters provided a statement to the NRC indicating that the inspections described in your response to item 1c of the bulletin were completed during recent outages and a description of the as-found condition of the locations inspected was provided.

The NRC staff has completed its activities associated with the review of SNC's responses to Bulletin 2004-01 and finds SNC's response to be acceptable. It should be noted that industry commitments or staff regulatory actions may result in the need for you to modify your plans for the inspection and repair of items discussed in Bulletin 2004-01. It is the staff's expectation that you will revise your plan for the inspection and repair of items discussed in Bulletin 2004-01 consistent with other industry commitments or staff regulatory actions.

Based on its review of SNC's responses to NRC Bulletin 2004-01, the NRC staff finds that SNC has met the requirements of the bulletin. Accordingly, TAC Nos. MC3478 and MC3479 are closed for FNP.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Martin, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operator Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 50-364

cc: See next page

Distribution:

PUBLIC	RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter	RidsOgcRp	RidsNrrDorIDpr
LPL2-1RF	RidsNrrPMRMartin	RidsNrrDorLpl2-1	A. Wang, NRR
RidsNrrDciCvib	RidsNrrPMTColburn	RidsNrrLACSola	E. Andruszkiewicz

ADAMS Accession No. ML061440065

NRR-106

OFFICE	LPL2-1/PM	LPL2-1/LA	CVIB	LPL2-1/BC
NAME	RMartin	RSola	MMitchell	EMarinos
DATE	06/ 7/06	06/7/06	05/19/06	06/16/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. J. R. Johnson
General Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 470
Ashford, AL 36312

William D. Oldfield
SAER Supervisor
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 470
Ashford, AL 36312

Mr. B. D. McKinney, Licensing Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

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

Mr. J. Gasser
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
434 Monroe St.
Montgomery, AL 36130-1701

Chairman
Houston County Commission
P.O. Box 6406
Dothan, AL 36302

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7388 N. State Highway 95
Columbia, AL 36319