



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

September 1, 2009

Mr. J. Randy Johnson
Vice President - Farley
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
7388 North State Highway 95
Columbia, AL 36319

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN – JOSEPH M.
FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On August 11, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Related Information" will include the Security Cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Farley Unit 1 was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI), Emergency AC systems crossing the threshold from Green to White in the first quarter 2008 due to failures of the 1B Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG). Also, a White inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone was issued third quarter of 2008 associated with the 1B EDG exhaust header failure. However, the White inspection finding is not being counted in the NRC's Action Matrix to prevent double counting of this issue. A supplemental inspection was conducted for Unit 1 during the third quarter 2008 using Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." Also, a White finding was issued in July 2009 for failure to maintain the means to provide alert, notification, and clear instruction to all of the population within the plume exposure pathway Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ).

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Farley Unit 2 was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based upon a White finding issued July 2009 for failure to maintain the means to provide alert, notification, and clear instruction to all of the population within the plume exposure pathway Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). A supplemental inspection is required using Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." Once the NRC is notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct this supplemental inspection, we will schedule an inspection. All Performance Indicators during the assessment period were Green.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security scheduled through December 31, 2010. In addition to reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspection activities, we also plan on conducting several infrequently performed inspections, which include Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/172, Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds; TI 2515/173, Review of the Implementation of the Industry Groundwater Protection Voluntary Initiative; TI 2515/175, Emergency Response Organization, Drill/Exercise Performance Indicator, Program Review; Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; and operator licensing inspections. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made 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).

As you may know, the NRC is currently evaluating the scope and frequency of all the baseline inspection procedures. If the results of the evaluation, or any other circumstances, cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Scott Shaeffer at 404-562-4521 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard D. Wert, Jr., Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-348, 50-364 and 72-042
License Nos.: NPF-2 and NPF-8

cc w/Encl.: (See page 3)

Enclosure: Farley Inspection/Activity Plan

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Leonard D. Wert, Jr., Division Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE X NON-SENSITIVE
ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____ X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE *SMS*

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP				
SIGNATURE	SMS /RA for/	SMS /RA/	JTM /RA/				
NAME	TLighty	SShaeffer	JMunday				
DATE	08/31/2009	08/31/2009	08/31/2009				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc w/encl:
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SNC

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Letter to J. Randy Johnson from Leonard D. Wert, Jr. dated September 1, 2009

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FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT

Distribution w/encl:

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ROP Reports

Institute of Nuclear Power (INPO)