



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

September 1, 2011

Mr. L. Mike Stinson
Vice President - Farley
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
7388 North State Highway 95
Columbia, AL 36319

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR
PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000348/2011006 AND 05000364/2011006)

Dear Mr. Stinson:

On August 9, 2011, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at Farley Unit 1 and Unit 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility. Farley Unit 1 during the third and fourth quarter of 2010 was within the ROP Regulatory Response Column of the Action Matrix because the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI), Emergency AC systems crossed the threshold from Green to White in the first quarter 2008 due to failures of the 1B Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG). The Unit 1 Emergency AC MSPI returned to Green during the first quarter of 2011.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. In addition to ROP baseline inspection activities, we also plan on conducting Initial Operator License Examinations.

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here:

<http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident." The Commission is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine whether additional actions may be warranted.

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).

Please contact me at 404-997-4548 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James Hickey, Acting Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Farley Inspection/Activity Plan (09/01/2011 – 12/31/2012)

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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cc w/encl: (See page 3)

X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE X NON-SENSITIVE
 ADAMS: X Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12440165 X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:RDP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP				
SIGNATURE	TXL /RA/	JAH /RA/	GSC /RA/				
NAME	TLighty	JHickey	GCroon				
DATE	08/25/2011	08/26/2011	08/28/2011				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc w/encl:

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(cc w/encl continued next page)

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5

Letter to L. Mike Stinson from James Hickey dated September 1, 2011.

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR
PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000348/2011006 AND 05000364/2011006)

Distribution w/encl:

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ROP Assessment

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)