



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 18, 2013

Mr. C. R. Pierce
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295, Bin-038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2— ACCEPTANCE REVIEW CONCERNING DEGRADED VOLTAGE PROTECTION MODIFICATION (TAC NOS. MF0468 AND MF0469) (NL-12-2142)

Dear Mr. Pierce:

By letter dated December 21, 2012, (Agency Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12356A470), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) concerning Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The proposed amendment requests the addition of a condition to the license related to the completion date for SNC modifications to redesign the current degraded voltage scheme to eliminate the use of administrative controls. This request was made to support ongoing compensatory measures as a result of an inspection finding in NRC Inspection Report 50-348(364)/2011-10 (ADAMS Accession No. ML113530575). By letter dated March 22, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13031A626), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff identified that supplemental information would be needed to enable the NRC staff to make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. By letter dated May 21, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13144A081), SNC responded to the NRC staff supplemental information request. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and supplemental information provided and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in

C. Pierce

- 2 -

which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact the Joseph M. Farley Project Manager, Mr. Robert Martin, at (301) 415-1493.

Sincerely,



Robert Martin, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

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/RA/

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