



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

June 6, 2014

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

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY, UNITS 1 AND 2 - ACCEPTANCE REVIEW
CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE TO INSERVICE INSPECTION FOR REACTOR
VESSEL FLANGE LEAK-OFF LINES (TAC NOS. MF4206 AND MF4207)

Dear Mr. Pierce:

By letter dated May 28, 2014 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML14148A492), the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., submitted a request for approval to use an alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Section XI code requirement of subarticle IWC-5220 for leakage testing of the Class 2 reactor vessel flange leakoff lines. The request, if approved, would be applicable to the fourth 10-year inservice inspection interval.

Pursuant to Section 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), the licensee requested to use the proposed alternative on the basis that complying with the specified requirement would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this 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 request has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The NRC staff has reviewed your request and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to continue its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed request 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 which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified in "requests for additional information" 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.

C. R. Pierce

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If you have any questions, please contact me on (301) 415-1009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Shawn Williams, 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

cc: Distribution via Listserv

C. R. Pierce

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If you have any questions, please contact me on (301) 415-1009.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Shawn Williams, 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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