



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

July 17, 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 NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RELAXATION OF RESPONSE DUE DATES REGARDING FLOODING HAZARD REEVALUATIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION 2.1 OF THE NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE REVIEW OF THE INSIGHTS FROM THE FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI ACCIDENT (TAC NOS. MF3638 and MF3639)

Dear Mr. Pierce:

By letter dated March 12, 2012,<sup>1</sup> the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a request for information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.54(f) (henceforth referred to as the 50.54(f) letter). The request was issued as a part of implementing lessons-learned from the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Enclosure 2 to the 50.54(f) letter requested licensees to perform a reevaluation of all external flooding hazards using present-day guidance and methodologies.

By letter dated May 11, 2012,<sup>2</sup> the NRC issued a prioritization of due dates for all sites. The flooding hazard reevaluation report (FHRR) was due on March 12, 2014, for Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Farley).

By letter dated September 26, 2013,<sup>3</sup> Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (Southern, the licensee) requested NRC assistance in obtaining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) analysis of dams that could impact the flood levels at the Farley site. By letter dated February 28, 2014,<sup>4</sup> Southern requested a delay in submittal of the FHRR for Farley to within 120 days of receiving the USACE final analysis. The reason for this request is that the USACE analysis is necessary to complete the flooding hazard reevaluation (FHR) and 120 days is necessary to incorporate the results.

On May 16, 2014,<sup>5</sup> the NRC staff held a public meeting with Southern to discuss the requested extension. On May 21, 2014,<sup>6</sup> Southern provided additional information supporting its requested extension for providing the Farley FHRR.

<sup>1</sup> The 50.54(f) letter is available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML12053A340.

<sup>2</sup> The prioritization letter is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML12097A509.

<sup>3</sup> The request for assistance in obtaining USACE analysis is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13274A343.

<sup>4</sup> The extension request from Southern is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14072A486.

<sup>5</sup> A summary of the May 16, 2014 meeting is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14134A031.

<sup>6</sup> The May 21, 2014 letter is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14141A629.

The NRC reviewed the justification provided and considered the following factors when reviewing the new schedule:

- Southern has completed the analysis required for the Farley FHR not related to the information request to USACE and has implemented interim actions to account for the higher than anticipated local intense precipitation event.
- As stated in the NRC's interim staff guidance (ISG) JLD-ISG-2013-01,<sup>7</sup> "Guidance for Assessment of Flooding Hazards Due to Dam Failure," evaluating flooding hazards for nuclear power plants needs to include consideration of floods resulting from dam failures. The FHR for Farley needs to consider dams that are operated by various government agencies including the USACE. The NRC has entered into an interagency agreement with the USACE to provide the necessary information for Farley to complete its FHR. Therefore, the FHRR for Farley cannot be completed until the NRC provides the analysis of the USACE dams to the licensee.
- As stated in NRC letter dated March 1, 2013,<sup>8</sup> "incomplete hazard reports that only contain an analysis of some flooding hazard mechanisms would not be of substantive benefit for staff and would not be acceptable." Therefore, the information requested from the USACE is necessary before an FHRR can be acceptably submitted to the NRC in compliance with the request in the 50.54(f) letter.
- The limited duration of the proposed extension (120 days after receiving the necessary information) and the fact that Farley has implemented interim actions to account for unbounded reevaluated flooding hazards support the proposed schedule.

Given these considerations, the NRC considers the revised schedule proposed by Southern to be acceptable. Accordingly, and based upon the authority granted to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the revised required response date for submitting the FHRR for Farley is 120 days after Southern receives the information from USACE. The NRC will include the date when the Farley FHRR is due when the requested USACE information is transmitted to the licensee. The transmittal letter will also note that if the USACE analysis results in a higher flood hazard relative to the design basis, the NRC staff will request that, within 60 days of receipt of the USACE analysis, Southern provide interim actions it will take or plans to take to address the higher flooding hazard.

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<sup>7</sup> JLD-ISG-2013-01 is available in ADAMS under Accession no. ML13151A153

<sup>8</sup> NRC's March 1, 2013 letter is available in ADAMS under Accession no. ML13044A561.

C. Pierce

- 3 -

If you have any questions regarding this matter, or if it is necessary to revise the submittal schedule, please contact your NRC project manager, Shawn Williams, at (301) 415-1009 or by e-mail at [Shawn.Williams@nrc.gov](mailto:Shawn.Williams@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel H. Dorman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel H. Dorman, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

cc: Listserv

If you have any questions regarding this matter, or if it is necessary to revise the submittal schedule, please contact your NRC project manager, Shawn Williams, at (301) 415-1009 or by e-mail at [Shawn.Williams@nrc.gov](mailto:Shawn.Williams@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Daniel H. Dorman, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

cc: Listserv

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\*via email

\*\*Previously concurred

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