



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

February 4, 2016

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

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - STAFF CLOSURE OF REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PURSUANT TO TITLE 10 OF THE *CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS* PART 50, SECTION 50.54(f), SEISMIC HAZARD REEVALUATIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION 2.1 "SEISMIC" OF THE NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE REVIEW OF INSIGHTS FROM THE FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI (CAC NOS. MF3832 AND MF3833)

Dear Mr. Pierce:

On March 12, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a request for information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, Section 50.54(f) (hereafter referred to as the 50.54(f) letter). The purpose of that request was to gather information concerning, in part, seismic hazards at each operating reactor site and to enable the NRC staff, using present-day NRC requirements and guidance, to determine whether licenses should be modified, suspended, or revoked.

By letter dated March 31, 2014 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML14092A020), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (the licensee), responded to this request for Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Farley). By letter dated October 16, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15287A092), the NRC issued a staff assessment, which completed its review of the information provided related to the Farley reevaluated seismic hazard and concluded that the licensee responded appropriately to Enclosure 1, Items (1) - (3) - (5) - (9) of the 50.54(f) letter. The NRC staff review concluded that Farley's reevaluated seismic hazard slightly exceeded the plant's existing design-basis safe shutdown earthquake (SSE) below 2.5 Hertz (Hz) and above the 10 Hz frequency range. Therefore, a low frequency evaluation and high frequency confirmation were requested by the NRC staff. By letter dated October 27, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15194A015), the NRC revisited these initial screening determinations and concluded that the low frequency evaluation and the high frequency confirmation are no longer merited for Farley given that the mentioned exceedances above the design basis SSE were considered insignificant. As such, the NRC staff concludes that no further responses or regulatory actions associated with Phase 2 of Near- Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 2.1 "Seismic" are needed for Farley. This closes out the NRC's efforts associated with Phase 1 and 2 of NTTF Recommendation 2.1 "Seismic" (CAC Nos. MF3832 and MF3833) for Farley.

C. Pierce

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1617 or at Frankie.Vega@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frankie Vega', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frankie Vega, Project Manager
Hazards Management Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

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C. Pierce

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1617 or at Frankie.Vega@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Frankie Vega, Project Manager
Hazards Management Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML16029A051 *via email

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