

## **NRR-PMDAPEm Resource**

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**From:** Williams, Shawn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 11:41 AM  
**To:** 'gkmcclro@southernco.com'  
**Cc:** Coleman, Jamie Marquess; Markley, Michael; Alley, David; Tsao, John; Wheat, Justin Thomas  
**Subject:** Verbal Authorization for Joseph M. Farley, Unit 1, October 14, 2016, Relief Request (NL-16-2204)  
**Attachments:** Farley, Unit 1, Oct. 14, 2016, RR verbal authorization .docx

Mr. McElroy,

By teleconference on October 19, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) provided verbal authorization for the use of Relief Request (FNP-ISI-ALT-21) in application dated October 14, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16288A796). This Alternative will allow Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Unit 1, to use a mechanical clamp in accordance with the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix IX, to temporary repair a leaking weld of the 1-inch drain line upstream of valve Q1G31V017 of the spent fuel pool cooling system and approves a delay the permanent Code repair or replacement of a 1-inch drain line leaking weld until prior to the start of the spring 2018 refueling outage (1 R28).

Attached is the Verbal Authorization provided during the October 19, 2016, conference call. NRC Staff will document a Safety Evaluation within 150 days as related to this Verbal Authorization.

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

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

Docket No. 50-348

**Hearing Identifier:** NRR\_PMDA  
**Email Number:** 3110

**Mail Envelope Properties** (d563654cb2a848ba923b4199438f44a4)

**Subject:** Verbal Authorization for Joseph M. Farley, Unit 1, October 14, 2016, Relief Request (NL-16-2204)  
**Sent Date:** 10/19/2016 11:40:38 AM  
**Received Date:** 10/19/2016 11:40:39 AM  
**From:** Williams, Shawn

**Created By:** Shawn.Williams@nrc.gov

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<b>Files</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
MESSAGE	1218	10/19/2016 11:40:39 AM
Farley, Unit 1, Oct. 14, 2016, RR verbal authorization .docx		18931

**Options**

**Priority:** Standard  
**Return Notification:** No  
**Reply Requested:** No  
**Sensitivity:** Normal  
**Expiration Date:**  
**Recipients Received:**

VERBAL AUTHORIZATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
FOR ALTERNATIVE FNP-ISI-ALT-21, VERSION 1.0  
ALTERNATE REPAIR OF DRAIN LINE OF SPENT FUEL POOL COOLING PIPING  
JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1  
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY  
DOCKET NUMBER 50-348

**Technical Evaluation read by David Alley, Chief of the Component Performance, Non-Destructive Examination, and Testing Branch, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation**

By letter dated October 14, 2016, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested relief from the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, Appendix IX, IX-1000(a) at Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant Unit 1. The licensee submitted for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review and approval Alternative FNP-ISI-ALT-21, Version 1.0. This Alternative proposes to use a mechanical clamp in accordance with the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix IX to temporary repair a leaking weld of the 1-inch drain line upstream of valve Q1G31V017 of the spent fuel pool cooling system. The licensee made this request in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(2), such that compliance with the specified requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

The NRC staff finds that the licensee will follow the requirements of the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix IX in the design and installation of a mechanical clamp on the degraded socket weld on the subject drain line except article IX-1000(a). In addition, the licensee will monitor the repair at least once a day. The NRC staff finds that the proposed alternative is acceptable because the design of the proposed mechanical clamp satisfies the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix IX, except article IX-1000(a).

The NRC staff finds the licensee's hardship justification is acceptable because the spent fuel cooling piping is required to be functional during refueling outage and a Code repair during the current 1R27 refueling outage would present hardship and unusual difficulties.

The NRC staff finds that the licensee's proposed alternative provides reasonable assurance of structural integrity and leak tightness for the subject drain line, and that compliance with the ASME Code requirement would result in hardship without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

**Authorization read by Michael Markley, Chief of the Plant Licensing Branch II-1, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation**

As Chief of the Plant Licensing Branch II-1, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, I concur with the Component Performance, Non-Destructive Examination, and Testing Branch's determinations.

The NRC staff finds that the proposed alternative provides reasonable assurance of structural integrity and leak tightness of the degraded drain line of the spent fuel cooling system piping. The NRC staff determines that complying with the ASME Code requirement would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that the

licensee has adequately addressed all of the regulatory requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(2). Therefore, the NRC staff authorizes the use of Alternative FNP-ISI-ALT-21, Version 1.0 at Farley Nuclear Plant Unit 1 until prior to the commencement of the 1R28 refueling outage, currently scheduled in the spring of 2018.

All other requirements of ASME Code, Section XI, for which relief was not specifically requested and authorized by the NRC staff remain applicable, including the third party review by the Authorized Nuclear In-service Inspector.

This verbal authorization does not preclude the NRC staff from asking additional clarification questions regarding Alternative FNP-ISI-ALT-21, Version 1.0, while preparing the subsequent written safety evaluation.