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

November 16, 1979

Docket No. 50-348

Mr. Alan R. Barton  
Senior Vice President  
Alabama Power Company  
Post Office Box 2641  
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

Dear Mr. Barton:

RE: FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT INTERIM RELIEF FOR INSERVICE TESTING

By letter dated May 1, 1979, you submitted a proposed second 20-month inservice testing program description and a request for relief from selected ASME Code requirements pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g). Although we have not completed our review of your submittal, our preliminary review makes clear to us that your proposed program to implement those ASME Code requirements that you have found to be practical is an acceptable interim program as discussed below.

Based on our preliminary review, we agree with your determination that it is impractical within the limitations of design, geometry and materials of construction of components, for you to meet certain of the specified ASME Code requirements and that imposition of those requirements would result in hardships or unusual difficulties without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), we hereby grant relief, on an interim basis, pending completion of our detailed review, from those inservice testing requirements of the ASME Code that you have requested, as modified by NRC staff comments on your proposal made during the working sessions held with your staff on September 26, and 27, 1979. This interim relief is granted until we have completed our review of your proposed revised program.

The granting of this relief is based only on the impracticality of selected ASME Code requirements and our determination that the relief granted neither increases the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered nor decreases safety margins. Therefore, this action does not involve a significant hazards consideration. You are authorized to, and should proceed to, implement your proposed program as modified by NRC staff comments made during the working session (except where your current Technical Specifications are more restrictive).

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- 2 -

November 16, 1979

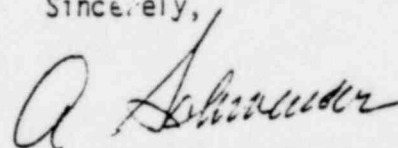
Your staff has advised the NRC Project Manager, Mr. Edward Reeves, that you would submit Revision 1 to your proposed program based on the comments received from the staff during the working sessions on September 26 and 27, 1979.

During the period between August 1, 1979 when the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g) for the second 20-month period became effective for your facility and the date we complete our detailed review of your submittal, you must comply with both your existing Technical Specifications and your proposed inservice testing program, as modified. In the event conflicting requirements arise for some components, you must comply with the more restrictive requirements (e.g., shorter inspection intervals, increased number of parameters measured). In other words, the granting of this relief from ASME Code requirements should not be interpreted to give you relief from any of the requirements in your existing Technical Specifications.

When our detailed review of your May 1, 1979 submittal and Revision 1 thereto is complete, we will: (1) issue final approval of your program (which may contain modifications resulting from the staff's review), (2) grant relief from any ASME Code requirements that are determined to be impractical for your facility for the duration of the inspection interval and (3) issue appropriate changes to your Technical Specifications, if necessary.

A copy of the Federal Register Notice related to this action is enclosed.

Sincerely,



A. Schwencer, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #1  
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:  
Federal Register Notice

cc: w/enclosure  
See next page

1521 278

Mr. Alan R. Barton  
Alabama Power Company

- 3 -

November 16, 1979

cc: Ruble A. Thomas, Vice President  
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Post Office Box 2625  
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

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