



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

INTO PDR

JUL 14 1980

Docket No. 50-364

Mr. F. L. Clayton, Jr.  
Senior Vice President  
Alabama Power Company  
Post Office Box 2641  
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

Dear Mr. Clayton:

SUBJECT: AUGMENTED LOW-POWER STARTUP TEST PROGRAM  
(JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2)

One result of the Three Mile Island accident studies is the requirement for the near-term operating license (NTOL) applicants to perform an augmented low-power startup test program to provide operator training and design verification regarding natural circulation conditions. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposed a program consisting of ten tests for the Sequoyah Plant. There has been some uncertainty as to which of these tests should be performed by each of the other NTOL applicants at their facilities. It is the NRC staff's position that each NTOL applicant should perform tests similar to the tests proposed by TVA for Sequoyah prior to exceeding five percent of rated thermal power except for Test 8, "Establishment of Natural Circulation From Stagnant Conditions," and Test 9B, "Boron Mixing and Cooldown."

Test 8 may be deleted if training for each operator is provided. Training should include conducting a simulation of the event on a simulator that has been updated as necessary using the Westinghouse and TVA test data collected at Sequoyah.

Test 9B must be performed. However, it may be modified and deferred until completion of the power ascension program and manufacturer's acceptance test, provided it will be performed immediately following completion of the manufacturer's acceptance test. Chapter 14 of your FSAR should be modified as appropriate to reflect this condition if you elect deferral.

The only other exceptions to the Sequoyah test program that will be considered will be those resulting from unique, plant specific differences that could cause one or more of the tests performed at Sequoyah to be unsafe if performed on another plant. Technical justification for such exceptions, if any, should be provided no later than July 21, 1980, to the NRC staff for review and approval.

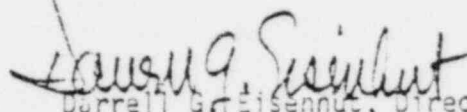
Mr. F. L. Clayton, Jr.

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No specific response to this letter is required. However, this position should be recognized when submitting or revising the description and safety analysis of the subject program for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant Unit 2.

Sincerely,



Durrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Mr. Ruble A. Thomas  
Vice President  
Southern Company Services, Inc.  
Post Office Box 2625  
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

Mr. George F. Trowbridge  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge  
1300 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.