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Alabama Power

the southern electric system

May 18, 1981

Docket No. 50-348
No. 50-364

Mr. Steven A. Varga
Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555



**FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT
DIESEL GENERATOR RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Dear Mr. Varga:

As discussed in a telephone call with the NRC staff on May 11, 1981, Alabama Power has established a task force to perform a study of problems associated with the Farley Nuclear Plant emergency diesel generators and to recommend corrective action or improvements to enhance their reliability. This task force was chartered on May 5, 1981 to review the design, operation, corrective and preventive maintenance, surveillance testing, and operator training associated with the diesel generators and their support systems. In addition, plant technical specification requirements governing diesel engine reliability testing will be thoroughly reviewed to determine if any modifications would be advisable to enhance overall diesel generator reliability and maintainability.

The initial phase of this study is being undertaken by personnel from the Farley Plant and Nuclear Generation offsite support staffs, Southern Company Services and Colt Industries (Farley Plant diesel manufacturer). All of the people on this task force have either extensive knowledge in diesel generator operation and maintenance or have engineering expertise in Farley diesel generator support equipment and systems.

The initial evaluation and screening of each item identified by the task force is scheduled to be completed by May 30, 1981. Based on the results of this evaluation, specific items which are deemed to have diesel generator reliability enhancement potential will be fully evaluated. At this time, the task force is scheduled to present Alabama Power Company management with detailed recommendations for their review and decision on implementation. Each approved recommendation will be scheduled for implementation based on required plant conditions.

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Mr. S. A. Varga

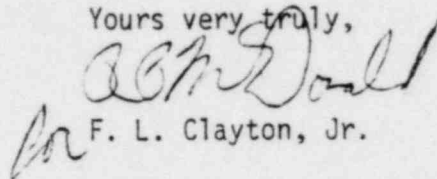
- 2 -

May 18, 1981

The efforts outlined explain the vigorous approach being taken by Alabama Power Company to enhance the diesel generator availability. Progress reports will be provided as this effort continues.

If there are any questions, please contact us.

Yours very truly,


F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLCjr/OWK:rt

cc: Mr. R. A. Thomas
Mr. G. F. Trowbridge
Mr. J. P. O'Reilly
Mr. E. A. Reeves
Mr. J. O. Thoma
Mr. W. H. Bradford