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the southern electric system

September 13, 1982

Docket Nos. 50-348
50-364

Director, Nuclear Regulatory Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. S. A. Varga

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Units 1 and 2
Natural Circulation Cooldown (Generic Letter No. 81-21)

Gentlemen:

In response to NRC Generic Letter 81-21 dated May 5, 1981, Alabama Power Company committed to furnish an assessment of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) procedures and training program for natural circulation cooldown 90 days after receipt of approved procedural guidelines from the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG). In a letter dated March 5, 1982, Alabama Power Company stated that the expected date for receiving the WOG procedural guidelines was April, 1982, with an FNP assessment to be completed by July, 1982.

Subsequent to the March 5, 1982 letter, the schedule for completion of the WOG procedural guidelines on natural circulation cooldown was changed due to the higher priority given other emergency operating procedures associated with pressurized thermal shock and steam generator tube rupture. Currently the WOG procedural guidelines applicable to the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant for natural circulation cooldown are scheduled to be completed by April, 1983, with an FNP assessment scheduled for July, 1983.

At the present time Alabama Power Company has an approved operating procedure for natural circulation cooldown. This procedure, EOP-7 "Loss of Off-Site Power," provides operator instructions for analyzed accident situations. Generic Letter No. 81-21 concerned void formation in the reactor vessel head, which is

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accounted for in the analyzed accident situations. Therefore, Alabama Power Company does not expect that any significant procedural changes to EOP-7 will be needed as a result of assessment of the WOG generic guidelines related to void formation. Based on the above, it is the judgement of Alabama Power Company that this additional delay in responding to Generic Letter 81-21 does not involve a significant safety concern.

In conclusion, Alabama Power Company will furnish an assessment of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant procedures and training program for natural circulation cooldown 90 days after receipt of approved WOG procedural guidelines. This assessment, currently scheduled for July, 1983, will identify changes in FNP procedures and training program, if necessary.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Yours very truly,

F. L. Clayton Jr.

FLCJr/GGY:jc-D28
cc: Mr. R. A. Thomas
Mr. G. F. Trowbridge
Mr. J. P. O'Reilly
Mr. E. A. Reeves
Mr. W. H. Bradford