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Alabama Power

the southern electric system

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10CFR50.63

Docket Nos. 50-348  
50-364

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant  
Station Blackout

On July 21, 1988, the NRC amended 10 CFR Part 50 to include Section 50.63 regarding station blackout. Section 50.63 requires that each light water-cooled nuclear power plant be able to withstand and recover from a station blackout of a specified duration and that the plant be capable of maintaining core cooling and appropriate containment integrity for that specified duration. Section 50.63 further requires that each licensee submit the following information:

- A proposed station blackout duration including a justification for the selection based on the redundancy and reliability of the onsite emergency AC power sources, the expected frequency of loss of offsite power, and the probable time needed to restore offsite power;
- A description of the procedures that will be implemented for station blackout events for the specified duration and recovery therefrom; and
- A list and proposed schedule for any modifications to equipment and associated procedures necessary for the specified blackout duration.

The NRC has issued Regulatory Guide 1.155, "Station Blackout", which describes a means acceptable to the NRC staff for meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 50.63. Regulatory Guide 1.155 states that the NRC staff has determined that NUMARC 87-00, "Guidelines and Technical Bases for NUMARC Initiatives Addressing Station Blackout at Light Water Reactors", provides guidance that is acceptable for meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 50.63. Alabama Power Company has evaluated Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, against the requirements of 10 CFR 50.63 using guidance from NUMARC 87-00 except where Regulatory Guide 1.155 takes precedence. The results of that evaluation were provided to the NRC by an Alabama Power Company letter dated April 12, 1989.

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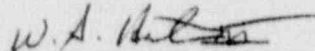
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Alabama Power Company believes that the information contained in the April 12, 1989 letter was correct and fully responsive to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.63 and the guidance of NUMARC 87-00. However, by letter dated January 4, 1990, NUMARC requested that each utility review their initial submittal and supplement it with additional detail based on supplemental NUMARC guidance provided in the January 4th letter. In response to that request, Alabama Power Company has reviewed the information presented in the April 12, 1989 submittal and determined that no additional detail is required since the basic assumptions of NUMARC 87-00 have been verified to be applicable to the Farley Nuclear Plant. As stated in the April 12, 1989 Alabama Power Company submittal, the target emergency diesel generator reliability for Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, is 0.95 based on the reliability for the last 100 demands for each emergency diesel generator model. The reliability is calculated in accordance with Regulatory Guide 1.108, Revision 1, August 1977, which deviates from the guidance referenced in NUMARC 87-00. However, as stated in the April 12, 1989 submittal, it is the position of Alabama Power Company that the guidance given in Regulatory Guide 1.108 is conservative when compared to the methodology of NSAC-108 referenced in NUMARC 87-00. The Alabama Power Company goal is to maintain the average emergency diesel generator reliability for each model equal to or better than the target reliability of 0.95. An emergency diesel generator reliability program will be addressed following resolution of Generic Issue B-56, Diesel Generator Reliability.

If there are any questions, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

  
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WGH,III/RGW:mV.1559

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