



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

February 7, 1991

Docket No. 50-348
and 50-364

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President
Alabama Power Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35201

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION OF OPERATOR REQUALIFICATION EXAMINATIONS AT
THE JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

This letter confirms the arrangements made with B. Moore of your staff on January 23, 1991, concerning the observation of operator requalification examinations at the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Farley), during the week of March 25, 1991. The observation team will originate from Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters with the purpose of gathering information and will not participate in nor interfere with the examinations.

The planned visit to Farley is a part of an NRC effort to pursue the issue of requalification examination stress that was identified in the Regulatory Impact Survey. The objective of the visit is to observe all phases of the requalification examinations to identify sources of operator stress that might be eliminated from the examination process. Similar visits are being conducted at other plants throughout the country.

The observation team will consist of two individuals, Richard Pelton (Human Factors Assessment Branch, NRC) and Anne Sutthoff (Science Applications International Corporation). Mr. Pelton would appreciate a brief opportunity, prior to the examination, to address the examinees to clarify the purpose of the visit and to respond to any concerns the operators may have regarding the team's presence. It will be emphasized that the team will not be evaluating operator performance.

The team will need to observe the dynamic simulator tests, as well as the job performance measures and the written portions of the examination process. Although the primary objective will be to observe the examination, the team is willing to schedule interviews with licensee personnel that might be available and interested in presenting their views, concerns, and sources of stress in the requalification examination process. In addition, approximately two weeks following completion of the examination, the team would be interested in returning to the site for two days to interview the examinees and evaluators. At the conclusion of the examination week, the team is willing to provide a briefing to interested licensee personnel concerning the teams observations and conclusions.

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W. G. Hairston, III

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February 7, 1991

We appreciate your allowing our team to observe the operator requalification examination process at Farley. Any questions concerning the details of the team's visit should be addressed to Richard Pelton at 301-492-1028.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Stephen T. Hoffman, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - 1/11
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

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