Mailing Address
Alabama Power Company
600 North 18th Street
Post Office Box 2641
Birmingham, Alabama 35291
Telephone 205 783-6081

F. L. Clayton, Jr.
Senior Vice President
Flintridge Building

Alabama Power
the southern electric system

May 26, 1983

Docket Nos. 50-348
50-364

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

Attention: Mr. S. A. Varga

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Units 1 and 2
Adequacy of Current Farley DS-416 Reactor Trip Breaker

Gentlemen:

Alabama Power Company has described the action taken regarding recent problems with the DS-416 breakers in letters dated March 4, 1983, March 25, 1983 and May 10, 1983. To resolve problems identified in Westinghouse letters dated March 31, 1983 (UV trip attachment dimensional variations) and April 21, 1983 (shaft retaining ring groove variations), Alabama Power Company replaced the UV trip attachments with devices which were modified to specific dimensional clearances and with widened grooves for shaft retaining rings. Dimensional clearances were verified after the new UV trip attachments were installed.

Following the installation of the new UV trip attachments at the Farley Nuclear Plant and during a 25 cycle bench test checkout procedure of the reactor trip breakers, one of the trip breakers failed to trip on the tenth test. It was determined that the new UV trip attachment did not properly interface with the breaker tripping mechanism (i.e., inadequate overtravel) to ensure reliable operation. Westinghouse developed criteria and a field test procedure for determining acceptable minimal overtravel to assure reliable operation. The UV trip attachment on the breaker discussed above was replaced and proper overtravel was verified. Adequate overtravel of all other UV trip attachments on the Farley Nuclear Plant reactor trip breakers and bypass breakers was verified.

In summary, the Farley Nuclear Plant DS-416 breaker configuration has been modified based on identified problems, appropriate breaker dimensional alignment has been verified, extensive bench testing has been performed to ensure proper breaker operation, and in-place breaker testing has continued to demonstrate satisfactory results. Alabama Power Company therefore concludes that the safe operation of Farley Nuclear Plant - Units 1 and 2 is not adversely impacted by the DS-416 reactor trip breakers.

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If there are any question, please advise.

Yours very truly,

F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLCJr/RLG:jc-D34
cc: Mr. R. A. Thomas
Mr. G. F. Trowbridge
Mr. J. P. O'Reilly
Mr. E. A. Reeves
Mr. W. H. Bradford
Dr. I. L. Myers