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Southern Nuclear Operating Company
the southern electric system

J. D. Woodard
Vice President
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January 31, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-248
50-364

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

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
Request for Extension for Response to Generic Issue 70
"Power-Operated Relief Valve and Block Valve Reliability"
per Generic Letter 90-06

Gentlemen:

On June 15, 1990 the NRC issued Generic Letter (G.L.) 90-06, "Resolution of Generic Issue 70, 'Power-Operated Relief Valve and Block Valve Reliability,' and Generic Issue 94, 'Additional Low-Temperature Overpressure Protection for Light-Water Reactors.'" Alabama Power Company submitted an initial response to G.L. 90-06 by letter dated December 14, 1990. In this letter Alabama Power Company committed to submit a response to Generic Issue 70 relating to the power-operated relief valve (PORV) technical specification by October 1991. This date was selected to allow time to develop a plant-specific probabilistic risk analysis (PRA) model and conduct analyses with one and two PORV's inoperable. The intention of this approach was to justify longer allowed outage times than those specified in G.L. 90-06.

Alabama Power Company notified the NRC by letter dated September 30, 1991 that the efforts associated with developing the PRA models, which are being coordinated with the efforts required by G.L. 88-20, "Individual Plant Examination (IPE) for Severe Accident Vulnerabilities," are not progressing as originally predicted. Therefore, a commitment was made for a January 31, 1992 submittal date. As an interim compensatory measure, in September 1991 Alabama Power Company met the intent of the generic letter by implementing administrative requirements which comply with the limiting conditions for operation as specified in Enclosure A, Attachment A-1 of G.L. 90-06.

The PRA model has not yet been completed, and as such, the necessary basis for an FNP-specific allowed outage time for PORV's and block valves will not be available to permit a January 31, 1992 submittal. Therefore, Southern Nuclear Operating Company will provide a response to Generic Issue 70 upon completion of the PRA analysis which is tentatively scheduled for September 1992. The administrative requirements described above will remain in effect until the results of the PRA are available and a response is submitted.


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If there are questions, please advise.

Respect.ully,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY


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JDW/BHW:map 1626

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