

ENCLOSURE 1

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Farley 2

Docket No. 50-364  
License No. NPF 8

During the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection conducted on March 9 through April 13, 1992, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. In accordance with "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1991), the violation is listed below:

10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, and the J.M. Farley Plant Operations Quality Assurance Policy Manual, requires measures to assure that conditions adverse to quality, such as failures, malfunctions and defective equipment are promptly identified and corrected. Such measures are to be taken to assure that the cause of the condition is determined and corrective action taken to preclude repetition.

Contrary to the above, on March 6, 1992, during a plant shutdown for a planned Unit 2 refueling outage, a preventable, automatic reactor trip occurred. This trip was caused by a change in reactor nuclear flux distribution characteristics and related "high neutron flux" effects on the intermediate range nuclear instrumentation trip circuitry. Similar "high neutron flux" effects on the intermediate range instruments resulted in a February, 1984, Unit 1 reactor trip, and a bypassing of the Unit 2 intermediate range instruments in order to conduct a planned shutdown in October, 1990.

If the licensee's proposed corrective actions had been implemented in a timely manner for the February, 1984 and the October, 1990 events, this challenge to the Unit 2 reactor protection system and the resulting trip may have been prevented.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement 1).

Pursuant to the provision of 10 CFR 2.201, Southern Nuclear Operating Company is hereby required to submit a written statement or explanation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555, with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region II, and a copy to the NRC Resident Inspector, within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice of Violation (Notice).

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This reply should be clearly marked as a "Reply to the Notice of Violation" and should include for each violation: (1) the reason for the violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the violation. (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved

If an adequate reply is not received within the time specified in this Notice, an order may be issued to show cause why the license should not be modified, suspended, or revoked or why such other action as may be proper should not be taken. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extend the response time.

THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Dated at Atlanta, Georgia  
this 1 day of May 1992