



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

June 5, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-348
and 50-364

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham Alabama 35201-1295

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: STEAM GENERATOR TUBE SUPPORT PLATE ALTERNATE PLUGGING CRITERIA FOR
JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M79818 AND
M79819)

By letter dated February 26, 1991, as supplemented by letters dated November 13, 1991, and February 21, 1992, you submitted proposed amendments to the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications concerning steam generator tube support plate alternate plugging criteria. By my letter dated January 29, 1992, you were informed that we could not meet your requested approval date and that the NRC staff anticipated completion of its review and issuance of the amendments in time to support your scheduled Unit 1 outage in September 1992.

The review of your requested amendments has been continuing and has utilized significant NRC staff resources. This review has included numerous conference calls and meetings with your staff, and your submittal of additional information. Your staff has been very responsive to our requests. However, as this review has progressed, additional issues have been identified and the generic implications of the approval of the amendments have raised questions concerning processing your request as a plant specific amendment request. A number of other licensees have requested, or expressed interest, in amendments utilizing similar alternate plugging criteria.

Therefore, this letter is to inform you that we are now reviewing your requested amendments as an industry lead plant submittal. Our review will now include consideration of the generic implications of approval and will be performed in accordance with the staff's procedures for the evaluation of generic changes, including review by the Committee to Review Generic Requirements.

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June 5, 1992

Based on the review required for the generic implications of your submittals, we may be unable to issue the amendments by September 1992. We will continue to review your requested amendments as expeditiously as possible and will inform you of the schedule for completing our review at a later date.

Sincerely,

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Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Southern Nuclear Operating
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Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

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