



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

May 21, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-348
and 50-364

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

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: INSTRUMENTATION TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF AN ACCIDENT
(REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97) AT JOSEPH W. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT,
UNITS 1 AND 2 (MPA A-17)

Section 6.2 of Generic Letter 82-33, Supplement 1 to NUREG-0737, "Requirements for Emergency Response Capability," requested licensees to provide a report on their implementation of Regulatory Guide 1.97, "Instrumentation for Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants to Assess Plant and Environs Conditions During and Following an Accident," (Revision 2), and methods for complying with the Commission's regulations, including a supporting technical justification for any proposed alternatives or deviations. A large number of exception requests were received from pressurized water reactor licensees asking that the environmental qualification requirement for accumulator level and pressure monitoring instrumentation be relaxed from Category 2 to Category 3, which would allow commercial grade instruments to be used. Prior to 1987, these requests were denied by the staff. Since 1987, these exception requests were considered by the staff as open items until a generic resolution could be found.

The staff has now reviewed the bases for these exceptions and has concluded that no operator action is based on this post-accident instrumentation and that it does not perform a safety function. In addition, successful performance of core cooling systems can be inferred from other environmentally qualified instrumentation. Since this instrumentation does not perform any post-accident safety function, its qualification requirements can be reduced to Category 3. A copy of the Safety Evaluation justifying this change is enclosed.

Instrumentation installed as Category 2 to monitor accumulator level or pressure is no longer bound by this commitment. You may, at your discretion, replace this instrumentation with Category 3 instrumentation. Please notify me of any actions you plan to take and the schedule for implementation.

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

9206010205 920521
PDR ADOCK 05000348
P PDR

JFO/
111

Mr. W. G. Hairston

-2-

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 504-1463.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File
NRC & Local PDRs
PD21 Reading File
S. Varga
G. Lainas
E. Adensam
S. Hoffman
P. Anderson
A. Hansen
OGC
ACRS (10)
L. Reyes, RII

LA: PD21: DRPE	PM: PD21: DRPE	D: PD21: DRPE	
PAnderson	SHoffman:dt	EAdensam	
5/16/92	5/20/92	5/20/92	

Document Name: FARREG197.LTR

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

Mr. R. P. McDonald
President
Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Claude Earl Fox, M. D.
State Health Officer
State Department of Public Health
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Mr. J. D. Woodard
Vice-President-
Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Chairman
Houston County Commission
P.O. Box 6406
Dothan, Alabama 36302

Mr. D. N. Morey
General Manager - Farley Nuclear Plant
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 470
Ashford, Alabama 36312

Regional Administrator, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. B. L. Moore
Manager, Licensing
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 24 - Route 2
Columbia, Alabama 36319

James H. Miller, III, Esq.
Balch and Bingham
P.O. Box 306
1710 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Mr. L. B. Long
Vice President-Technical Services
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Mr. J. W. McGowan
Manager, Safety Audit
and Engineering Review
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295