



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 56 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-2
AND AMENDMENT NO. 47 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-8

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-348 AND 50-364

Introduction

Alabama Power Company (the licensee) currently staffs three 8-hour shifts per day at the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant. By letter dated November 2, 1984, the licensee proposed Technical Specification changes to allow a new operating shift schedule that would have the operating shift crews staff two 12-hour shifts per day. In this context an operating shift crew is comprised of senior reactor operators, reactor operators, auxiliary operators, and a shift technical advisor. Our evaluation of the licensee's proposal follows.

Discussion and Evaluation

Implementation of the new operating shift schedule requires revision of the Technical Specification, Administrative Controls Section 6, governing working hour limits for unit staff who perform safety-related functions. The current specification states that "operating personnel work a normal 8-hour day, 40-hour week while the plant is operating," whereas the proposed specification states that "operating personnel work a nominal 40-hour week while the plant is operating." The words "normal 8-hour day, 40-hour week" are replaced with the words "nominal 40-hour week" in order to permit the use of 12-hour shifts and to allow some variation in the length of the work week from shift crew to shift crew and from week to week.

The staff has evaluated the licensee's proposal and determined the following:

1. The use of two shifts per day instead of three shifts per day reduces the number of shift changes, which reduces the potential for shift turnover errors.
2. The maximum scheduled number of consecutive working days is reduced from seven to five.

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3. The number of consecutive days off work is increased at certain points in the schedule.
4. The total number of days off work is increased.
5. The new schedule is expected to enhance operator morale and has been ratified by union contract which the licensee proposes to implement in January 1985.
6. The length of the work week remains at a nominal 40 hours.
7. The 12-hour shift has been approved by the Commission and is being used at other operating reactors. Plant experience to date has been positive at the other facilities.

Based on the determination listed above, we find the licensee's proposal acceptable and the administrative Technical Specification change is also acceptable.

Environmental Consideration

These amendments involve only changes in administrative procedure and requirements. Accordingly, these amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Section 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of these amendments.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of these amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: December 26, 1984

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