

April 15, 1996

Mr. D. N. Morey
Vice President - Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: ASME CODE SECTION III RELIEF REQUEST FOR THE JOSEPH M. FARLEY
NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M94816 AND M94817)

Dear Mr. Morey:

Your January 29, 1996, letter requested relief for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (Farley), Units 1 and 2, from the requirements of the 1968 Edition of ASME Code Section III, Article 9, Section N-910.8 and the 1971 Edition of ASME Code Section III, Article NC-7000, Paragraph NC-7153. This relief would permit Farley to retain the installation of several block valves located in series with overprotection devices for the volume control tank (VCT) and the regenerative heat exchanger (RHE). This relief was requested because the VCT and RHE relief valve discharge line manual isolation valves in both Units 1 and 2 do not have positive controls and interlocks on stop valves in relief valve discharge lines as required by ASME Code Section N-910.8.

The staff has reviewed your submittal and determined that you have demonstrated that compliance with Code requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. Your proposed alternative would not result in unacceptable consequences or impair the ability to shut the plant down during normal operation or accident conditions. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), the staff has authorized the proposed alternative to the 1968 Edition of ASME Code Section III, Article 9, Section N-910.8 and the 1971 Edition of ASME Code Section III, Article NC-7000, Paragraph NC-7153 control and interlock requirements for the RHE and the VCT relief valve discharge line manual isolation valves identified in our enclosed safety evaluation. Accordingly, you may use the specified administrative controls on these block valves. The enclosed safety evaluation contains our review results.

Sincerely,
Original signed by B. Siegel for:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. 50-348, 50-364

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Company, Inc.

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

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