

January 9, 1997

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.

ATTN: Mr. D. N. Morey

Vice President

P. O. Box 1295

Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE, FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT,
REPORT NOS. 50-348/96-99 AND 50-364/96-99

Gentlemen:

The NRC Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) has been completed for your Farley facility. The facility was evaluated for the period of March 26, 1995, through November 23, 1996. The results of the evaluation are documented in the enclosed SALP report. This report will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the Farley site on January 22, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. (CST).

Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) performance was assessed in four functional areas: Plant Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, and Plant Support. Performance in Operations and Engineering remained superior. Performance in Maintenance remained good. Performance in the Plant Support functional area declined but was still considered good overall.

Plant Operations' superior performance was characterized by conservative plant management decisions, and strong operator knowledge and ability, as demonstrated by effective response to plant transients and proper implementation of startups and shutdowns. Safety Audit and Engineering Review group audits were thorough, critical, and contained findings which improved the safe operation of the plant.

Maintenance activities were well planned and controlled; surveillance and in-service inspection and testing programs continued to be effectively implemented. Adverse Balance of Plant (BOP) equipment performance, personnel errors due to a lack of attention to detail and emergency diesel generator availability were areas that remained a challenge.

The Engineering functional area continued to be characterized by superior performance. Previously identified strengths of strong management involvement and oversight, a well qualified staff at both the site and corporate office, and performance initiatives have been maintained. Licensing submittals were of high quality. The quality and effectiveness of major modifications, as well as licensee root cause analyses, continued to improve. BOP reliability problems and improved quality assurance and oversight of vendor activities remained a challenge in the engineering area.

Plant Support did not sustain past superior performance, but the area was still assessed as good. Overall performance for security activities remained very strong, but radiological control activities exhibited a decline. The

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emergency preparedness program was effective in maintaining site readiness. Fire protection activities represented the most significant performance decline.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by E.W. Merschoff
for Luis A. Reyes)

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Systematic Assessment of Licensee
Performance Report

Docket Nos.: 50-348 and 50-364
License Nos.: NPF-2 and NPF-8

cc w/encl:
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

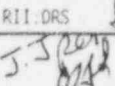
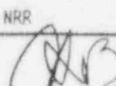

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