

June 3, 1997

EA 97-129

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. C. K. McCoy
Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-424/97-02 AND 50-425/97-02

Dear Mr. McCoy:

Thank you for your response of May 20, 1997, to our Notice of Violation issued on April 25, 1997, concerning a violation issued for radioactive material package surface dose rates which, subsequent to receipt at a vendor facility, exceeded Department of Transportation (DOT) limits.

On May 29, 1996, telephone conversation between Mr. Kenneth Barr, Chief, Plant Support Branch, NRC Region II and Ms. Indira Kochery, Health Physics Superintendent, Vogtle Nuclear Plant was conducted to discuss your response. The following details regarding the violation and corrective actions were discussed and clarified. Licensee representatives verified that no other shipments were affected nor were similar transportation issues previously identified. Revised vendor procedures for cleaning and preparing equipment removed from the Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) for shipment are to include aggressive cleaning techniques to be used on a case-by-case basis. Training provided to Health Physics technicians emphasized techniques and the importance of conducting detailed and accurate surveys to identify localized elevated dose rates for equipment removed from the SFP. Licensee representatives acknowledged that if shielding is used to reduce localized dose rates associated with equipment packaged for transport, surface contamination levels may limit packages from being shipped as Surface Contaminated Objects in accordance with DOT requirements.

We have evaluated your response and found that it meets the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201, with the clarifications discussed above. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and will examine the implementation of your corrective actions during future inspections.

Sincerely,

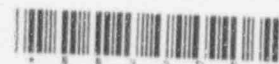
(Original signed by P. E. Fredrickson for)

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Johns P. Jaudon, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-424, 50-425
License Nos. NPF-68, NPF-81

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cc: J. D. Woodard
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P. Skinner, RII
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P. Harmon, RII
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NRC Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
8805 River Road
Waynesboro, GA 30830

*FOR PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE SEE ATTACHED PAGE

OFFICE	RII:DRS*	RII:DRS*	RII:DRP*	RII:EICS*		
SIGNATURE						
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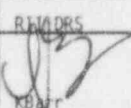

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