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Docket Nos. 50-348
50-364

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Units 1 and 2
NUREG-0737, Item II.D.1, Review Completion Schedule Update

By letter dated February 5, 1987, Alabama Power Company committed to advise the NRC of the results of walkdowns of the safety valve discharge piping for each unit and to provide a schedule for resolution of NRC concerns on this issue. These NRC concerns involve a postulated over-stress condition of the safety valve discharge piping during certain plant transients. In addition, the issue of inspection and maintenance of the safety valves is to be addressed.

Alabama Power Company has completed walkdowns of each unit and has determined that raising the temperature of the water in the loop seal piping between the pressurizer and the safety valves is the preferred alternative for lowering the postulated stresses in the discharge piping. Due to the temperatures that must be achieved and congested area in which the modification must be made, two refueling outages (RO) will be required. During the initial refueling outage (Unit 2 6th RO, Unit 1 9th RO), modifications will be made to allow installation of reflective insulation to the loop seal piping at the subsequent outage. These modifications have been determined necessary by engineering analysis to ensure sufficient heat is conducted to the loop seal water. Upon completion of these modifications, as-built drawings will be made of the region, insulation design finalized, and a final insulation design verification walkdown will be performed. Fabrication of the custom insulation may then commence with insulation of the loop seal region to be accomplished during the subsequent outages (Unit 2 7th RO, Unit 1 10th RO). At the conclusion of these outages, at-power temperature measurements of the loop seal piping will be made to determine if enhancements to the insulation design are necessary. These enhancements, if required, will be made during subsequent outages of sufficient duration.

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With regard to inspection and maintenance of the safety valves, Alabama Power Company's current inspection, testing and maintenance procedures are considered sufficient to ensure the operability of the safety valves. However, procedures will be revised to ensure that, in the event a safety valve lifts due to an operational transient, an evaluation will be performed to determine the operability of the safety valve. If determined necessary by the evaluation, the appropriate inspection and maintenance activities will be performed.

In conclusion, modifications will be made during future refueling outages to raise the temperature of the loop seal water to allow sufficient flashing of the water to steam. This flashing to steam will reduce postulated loadings on the downstream piping below code allowable values. These modifications, in conjunction with the inspection, test and maintenance procedures discussed above, are considered by Alabama Power Company to resolve all remaining issues associated with NUREG-0737, Item II.D.1.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

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cc: Mr. L. B. Long
Dr. J. N. Grace
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