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March 24, 1986

Dr. J. N. Grace, Administrator  
Region II, Suite 3100  
101 Marietta Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Dr. Grace:

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Units 1 and 2  
Unresolved Item 348, 364/85-15-01

In March 1985, the NRC conducted a training effectiveness inspection at Farley Nuclear Plant. During this review, unresolved item 348, 364/85-15-01 was identified. The NRC stated that there was "apparent reluctance to implement the INPO accredited program." NRC's concern centered on the training received by three licensed operators who took the SRO license examination on 1-28-85.

The three reactor operators which prompted the NRC concern entered an upgrade program before we initiated a self-evaluation report for accreditation of our upgrade program. One had entered in 1981, another in 1983 and the last, the first of January 1984. This training program had not been designed to be equivalent to that of an accredited program with respect to lesson plans, monitoring, and documentation. The training began long before accreditation which occurred on December 20, 1984. Prior to commencing a self-study program, each of the three trainees previously completed the entire classroom segment of RO training which was taught at the SRO level. We required each trainee to pass a simulator exam and an overall course exam before we gave our final approval to take the NRC SRO exam on January 28, 1985. The simulator exam and overall course exams were those exams used in our accredited SRO program.

Our training program which was accredited on December 20, 1984 for upgrading reactor operators to senior reactor operators contains three segments that include monitoring and documentation as follows: classroom (lesson plans and exams); on-shift (qualification card requirements); and simulator (qualification requirements and exams). There is also a final overall course exam.

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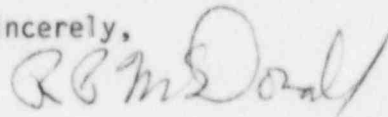
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We recently added an alternative procedure for the completion of training required in the classroom segment of the RO-to-SRO upgrade training program. This procedure introduces a self-study option utilizing the same lesson plans and formal progress exams. This self-study alternative was evaluated to ensure that it fulfills the requirements of accreditation such as objectives, monitoring and documentation. This alternative procedure is only for persons who previously attended the classroom phase of RO training which is taught at the SRO level. Therefore, SRO upgrade trainees who are permitted to use this alternative procedure will have already completed this same material at the SRO level while in training for RO. In other words, they will be reviewing through self-study what they have already covered in the classroom.

We value the quality and discipline brought to our training by the accreditation process. It is evident that such training has improved the performance of individuals as well as our overall performance.

Sincerely,



RPM:wm  
Attachment

cc: Mr. L. B. Long  
Mr. E. A. Reeves  
Mr. W. H. Bradford