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R. P. McDonald
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AlabamaPower
The Southern Electric System

July 8, 1986

Docket No. 50-348

Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Mr. L. S. Rubenstein

Gentlemen:

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Unit 1
Proposed Fuel Rod Uranium Weight
Technical Specification Change

Design Features Section 5.3.1, Fuel Assemblies, of the Technical Specifications identifies a maximum total fuel rod uranium weight of 1,766 grams. Recent improvements to the fuel design, including chamfered pellets with a reduced dish and an as-built density increase, have increased the fuel weight slightly. The weight increases have caused the maximum fuel rod uranium weight to exceed the specified maximum value of 1,766 grams.

Alabama Power Company therefore proposes to delete the maximum fuel rod uranium weight limit of 1,766 grams from the Technical Specifications. The purpose of the change is to permit the use of assemblies with fuel rod uranium weight over the limit and also to reflect the relative insensitivity of the safety analyses to this parameter. Although a number of areas in the safety analyses are indirectly affected by fuel rod uranium weight, the areas of safety significance have their own limits which are reflected in the Farley Nuclear Plant Final Safety Analysis Report Update and plant Technical Specifications.

The proposed change of Technical Specifications Design Features Section 5.3.1 is the only reference to fuel rod uranium weight in the Technical Specifications. Attachment 1 indicates the changed Technical Specification page and includes the proposed changed page.

This Technical Specification change is being requested because this limit is not significant to the safe operation of the Farley Nuclear Plant. Alabama Power Company has determined that the proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration. The required analysis, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.92, is provided as Attachment 2.

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Mr. L. S. Rubenstein
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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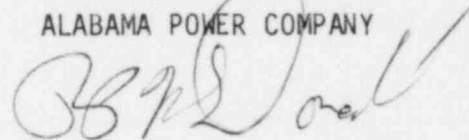
Alabama Power Company's Plant Operations Review Committee has reviewed this proposed change and the Nuclear Operations Review Board will review this proposed change at a future meeting. It is requested that the NRC approve this Technical Specification change by October 3, 1986 to ensure that the upcoming Unit 1 Cycle 7-8 refueling outage is not adversely affected.

As required by 10 CFR 170.21, the License Amendment Application Fee of \$150.00 is enclosed. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.90, three signed originals and forty additional copies of the proposed change are enclosed. A copy of the proposed change has also been sent to Mr. Dan Turner, the Alabama State Designee, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1).

If there are any questions, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY



R. P. McDonald

RPM/REM:kpc-D-T.S.4

Attachments

cc: Mr. L. B. Long
Dr. J. N. Grace
Mr. E. A. Reeves
Mr. W. H. Bradford
Mr. Dan Turner

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME

THIS 8th DAY OF July, 1986

James A. Hyle
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9-11-88

ATTACHMENT 1

Proposed Changed Pages

Unit 1

Revision

Page 5-6

Replace