

Mr. D. N. Morey
 Vice President - Farley Project
 Southern Nuclear Operating
 Company, Inc.
 Post Office Box 1295
 Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

April 21, 1998

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE RELATED TO THE AUGMENTED EXAMINATION OF REACTOR VESSEL SHELL WELDS FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. M99576)

Dear Mr. Morey:

By letter dated September 8, 1997, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), proposed an alternative to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(4) for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Unit 1. This alternative is allowed under 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(5) provided that the licensee submit information that supports the determination that they are unable to completely satisfy the requirements for the augmented reactor vessel shell weld examination and propose an alternative to the examination requirements that would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Specifically, SNC has determined that the augmented examination of the FNP, Unit 1, reactor vessel shell welds cannot be performed to the "essentially 100 percent" magnitude required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(4) or as defined in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(2).

The NRC staff has reviewed the information provided in your proposed alternative. Based on the information provided, the staff concludes that the proposed alternative for augmented examination of the FNP reactor vessel shell welds provides an acceptable level of quality and safety and is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
 Project Directorate II-2
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-348

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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The NRC staff has reviewed the information provided in your proposed alternative. Based on the information provided, the staff has concluded that the proposed alternative for augmented examination of the FNP reactor vessel shell welds provides an acceptable level of quality and safety and is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert N. Berkow".

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-348

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

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