



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE N.E., SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1200

September 5, 2024

Edwin D Dean, Site Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
7388 North State Highway 95
Columbia, AL 36319-0470

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED
OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000348/2025301 AND
05000364/2025301

Dear Edwin Dean:

During a telephone conversation on September 3, 2024, between Mr. S. Jackson, Nuclear Operations Instructor, and Mr. Shane Battenfield, Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at the Farley Nuclear Plant. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of August 3, 2025. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the weeks of September 7 – 14, 2025. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of September 14, 2025.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare both the operating test and written examination based on the guidelines in Revision 12 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your staff has also agreed to make copies of all examination materials that are necessary for administering the examination.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outline by April 10, 2025. The previously assigned Chief Examiner, Mr. Mike Kennard, provided the written examination outline to your staff in March 2024. The operating test, written examination, and the supporting reference materials identified in NUREG-1021, Examination Standard (ES)-2.1, "Preparing for Operator Licensing Initial Examinations," will be due by June 24, 2025. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outline, examination, and test before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Delays in receiving the required materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be cancelled or rescheduled.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, your staff will need to provide adequate space and accommodations and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-3.5, "Administering Operating Tests," your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures,

and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

ES-1.2, "Guidelines for Taking NRC Examinations," contains a number of NRC guidelines for the written examinations and operating tests as they are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. Battenfield to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB control number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB control number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the NRC does not receive the preliminary applications at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final, signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for waiver or excusal requests call for their receipt at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the facility licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (*i.e.*, using NRC Form 398 or as directed by Mr. Battenfield when contacting him to determine the method for submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This letter contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). These information collections were approved by the OMB, approval number 3150-0018.

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Jackson has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Battenfield at (918-688-4528), (Internet E-mail: shane.battenfield@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4718, (Internet E-mail: matthew.endress@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Endress, Matthew
on 09/05/24

Matthew Endress, Chief
Operations Branch 2
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-348, 50-364
License Nos.: NPF-2, NPF-8

cc: Distribution via ListServ

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000348/2025301 AND 05000364/2025301 DATED SEPTEMBER 05, 2024

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML24247A110

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NAME	K. Wallace	V. Furr	M. Endress		
DATE	09/03/24	09/05/24	09/05/24		

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