

October 18, 1999

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. D. N. Morey
Vice President
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: ADEQUACY OF KAOWOOL FIRE BARRIERS

Dear Mr. Morey:

I received your letter dated September 23, 1999, regarding the adequacy of Kaowool Fire Barriers in use at the Farley Nuclear Plant. Your letter indicates that you disagree with several statements contained in our letter on this subject dated August 26, 1999, and its enclosure, the NRR response to TIA 96-023.

We appreciate your support for a joint meeting between NRC, you, and three other commercial nuclear power facilities that currently use Kaowool or FP-60 fire barriers. As indicated in our letter to you dated September 9, 1999, and reiterated during a telephone conference call between members of your staff and the NRC on October 5, 1999, the objective of this meeting will be to explore the possibility of developing a voluntary industry initiative to resolve the Kaowool and FP-60 issues. The meeting discussions will include a review of the technical and licensing basis issues associated with the use of Kaowool and FP-60 fire barriers, their applicability to each plant, and the need for compensatory measures. If, after the completion of this joint meeting, you continue to desire a meeting solely between your staff and the NRC, we will arrange for such a meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The NRR lead project manager for this issue, Mr. Leonard Olshan, who can be reached at (301) 415-1419, will inform your staff of the arrangements for the joint meeting. Please contact Mr. Olshan or me if you have any additional questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Jon R. Johnson

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

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

cc: (See page 2)

FE01

cc: M. J. Ajluni, Licensing
 Services Manager, B-031
 Southern Nuclear Operating
 Company, Inc.
 Electronic Mail Distribution

L. M. Stinson
 General Manager, Farley Plant
 Southern Nuclear Operating
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J. D. Woodard
 Executive Vice President
 Southern Nuclear Operating
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State Health Officer
 Alabama Department of Public Health
 RSA Tower - Administration
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 Balch and Bingham Law Firm
 P. O. Box 306
 1710 Sixth Avenue North
 Birmingham, AL 35201

Rebecca V. Badham
 SAER Supervisor
 Southern Nuclear Operating Company
 Electronic Mail Distribution

Distribution:
 M. Padovan, NRR
 PUBLIC

(*) SEE PREVIOUS PAGES FOR CONCURRENCES

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRP	RII:DRS	HQS:NRR	RII:DRA		
SIGNATURE	*	*	*	*			
NAME	RSCHIN:jc	PSKINNER	VMCCREE	HBKOW	JOHNSON		
DATE	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/16 /99	10/ /99	10/ /99
COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

(cc cont'd)
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SIGNATURE			<i>imm</i>	<i>Reich by e-mail</i>			
NAME	*RSCHIN:jc	*PSKINNER	VMCCREE	HBERKOW			
DATE	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/15/99	10/15/99	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/ /99
COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	<u>YES</u> NO	<u>YES</u> NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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DATE	10/24/99	10/24/99	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/ /99	10/ /99
COPY?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO