



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

September 2, 2014

Ms. Cheryl A. Gayheart
Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
P.O. Drawer 470, BIN B500
Ashford, AL 36312

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR
PLANT UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2 -- NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000348/2014006
AND 05000364/2014006**

Dear Ms. Gayheart:

On August 12, 2014, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 and Unit 2. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 and Unit 2 was operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Farley Unit 1 and Unit 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green).

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2015. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission

issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate licensee plans for complying with the Orders, as described in site-specific submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for the first unit at each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

From January 1 to December 31, 2013, the NRC issued four Severity Level IV traditional enforcement violations associated with impeding the regulatory process. The NRC evaluated the need to conduct IP 92723, "Follow Up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period." In the annual assessment letter we informed you that we were not going to conduct IP 92723 because three of these violations were identified by your staff. Also, we indicated that we will re-evaluate the need for conducting this inspection during the mid-cycle assessment meeting in August 2014. During the second quarter of this year, NRC inspectors completed a focused PI&R inspection sample of the common cause analysis for these issues. No additional actions are planned regarding this matter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (404)-997-4436 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Franke, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Farley Inspection/Activity Plan
(09/01/2014 – 12/31/2015)

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 ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP			
SIGNATURE	JGW /RA/	MEF /RA/			
NAME	JWorosilo	MFranke			
DATE	09/02/2014	09/02/2014			
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

C. Gayheart

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Letter to Cheryl A. Gayheart from Mark Franke dated September 2, 2014.

SUBJECT: MID CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR
PLANT UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2 NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000348/2014006
AND 05000364/2014006

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ROP Assessment

ROP Reports

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	09/15/2014	09/19/2014	OL EXAM - INITIAL LICENSE EXAM PREP V23427	FARLEY/OCTOBER 2014 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	10/06/2014	10/10/2014	OL EXAM - INITIAL LICENSE EXAM WEEK 1 V23427	FARLEY/OCTOBER 2014 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	10/13/2014	10/17/2014	OL EXAM - INITIAL LICENSE EXAM WEEK 2 V23427	FARLEY/OCTOBER 2014 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1, 2	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	3
1, 2	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1, 2	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
2	10/27/2014	10/31/2014	ISI - UNIT 2 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
2	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	SGISI - UNIT 2 SG IN-SERVICE INSPECTION IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
1, 2	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE WEEK2 IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	3
1, 2	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1, 2	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1	04/06/2015	04/10/2015	ISI - UNIT 1 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION & RVH EXAM IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	2
1, 2	04/06/2015	04/10/2015	RP - RAD HAZARDS ANALYSIS AND TRANSPORTATION IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	1
1, 2	04/06/2015	04/10/2015	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1	04/13/2015	04/17/2015	SGISI - UNIT 1 SG IN-SERVICE INSPECTION IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
1, 2	04/20/2015	04/24/2015	EP - EP PROGRAM INSPECTION IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	2

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.

This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			EP	- EP PROGRAM INSPECTION	2
1, 2	04/20/2015	04/24/2015	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1, 2	04/20/2015	04/24/2015	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2	04/20/2015	04/24/2015	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1, 2	04/20/2015	04/24/2015	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			RP	- RP PUBLIC RAD SAFETY BASELINE	3
1, 2	06/22/2015	06/26/2015	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1, 2	06/22/2015	06/26/2015	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1, 2	06/22/2015	06/26/2015	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1, 2	06/22/2015	06/26/2015	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			PI&R	- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION	4
1, 2	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1, 2	11/16/2015	11/20/2015	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure