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NRC Approves Power Uprate for Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 And 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by Southern Nuclear Operating Co. Inc. to increase the reactor capacity of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, by approximately 1.7 percent.

The NRC staff determined that Southern Nuclear could safely increase both reactors' heat output, primarily through more accurate means of measuring feedwater flow. Southern Nuclear is also improving some plant systems not regulated by the NRC to more efficiently convert the increased reactor output to electricity.

The power uprate for Farley, located approximately 18 miles east of Dothan, Ala., will increase Unit 1's generating capacity from approximately 910 to 944 megawatts electric and Unit 2's generating capacity from approximately 910 to 953 MWe. Southern Nuclear intends to implement Unit 1's uprate within 180 days of completing the unit's spring 2021 refueling outage and Unit 2's uprate within 180 days of completing that unit's fall outage this year.

The NRC's safety evaluation of the plant's proposed power uprate focused on several areas, including the nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evaluations, radiological consequences, fire protection, operations and training, testing, and technical specification changes.

The NRC published a *Federal Register* notice regarding the Farley power uprate application in February that provided the public an opportunity to comment or request a hearing. The agency's evaluation of the Farley power uprate is available through the NRC's ADAMS electronic document database.