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50-364

NEL-01-0075

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

**Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant  
Technical Specifications Change Request  
Elimination of Periodic Protection Channel Response Time Tests**


Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated August 17, 2000, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) requested an amendment to the Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) Unit 1 and Unit 2 Technical Specifications. The amendment will eliminate performance of periodic response time testing of selected Reactor Trip System (RTS) and Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System (ESFAS) equipment as defined in WCAP-14036-P-A Revision 1, "Elimination of Periodic Protection Channel Response Time Tests." In lieu of measurement, the proposed amendment will allow verification of component response times provided the specific protection system equipment and the verification methodology have been previously reviewed and approved by the NRC.

Presently, the FNP support staff is involved in the Unit 2 replacement steam generator outage activities. Following this outage, the FNP support staff will be making preparations for the Unit 1 fall refueling outage. SNC requests that the NRC staff provide an effective license amendment implementation date for both units based on Unit 1 entry into Mode 3 for Cycle 18 following the 2001 fall refueling. This will allow sufficient time for modification of the RTS & ESFAS response time surveillance procedures and for implementation of the new response time verification methods.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dave Morey

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cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Mr. L. M. Stinson, General Manager - Farley

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C.  
Mr. F. Rinaldi, Licensing Project Manager - Farley

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II  
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator  
Mr. T. P. Johnson, Senior Resident Inspector – Farley