

April 16, 2003

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.
Vice President - Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT (FARLEY), UNITS 1 AND 2
RE: QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM CHANGE (TAC NOS. MB7935 AND
MB7936)

Dear Mr. Beasley:

By letter dated February 13, 2003, you submitted a proposed revision to the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) described in the Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) Updated Final Safety Analysis Report, Chapter 17. This revision to the FNP QAP was submitted in accordance with the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.54(a)(3), as reflecting a change that reduced commitments in the QAP description previously approved by the NRC.

This revision would delete procedure approval authority of the Quality Assurance Manager that is currently required by the QAP. The revision would also delete QAP reference to the Operations Quality Assurance Policy Implementation List (OQAPIL), which is a composite listing of administrative procedures. The OQAPIL is a procedure listing that divides FNP administrative procedures organizationally into procedures issued by the Nuclear Plant General Manager (NPGM), procedures issued by the Nuclear Support General Manager (NSGM), and procedures issued by the Quality Assurance Manager (QAM). Section 17.2.2.2 of the QAP currently requires that the QAM approve all procedures listed in the OQAPIL. This QAP revision would reassign procedure approval authority to the NPGM for procedures issued by the NPGM, to the NSGM for procedures issued by the NSGM, and the QAM for administrative procedures issued by the QAM.

We have reviewed and evaluated the information provided by you in your February 13, 2003, submittal, and we have determined that the proposed revision to the FNP's QAP continues to comply with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, and is consistent with guidance for approval of

- 2 -

procedures provided by the American National Standards Institute N18.7. Therefore, the proposed revision to FNP's QAP is found acceptable by the staff. Our Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Frank Rinaldi, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

procedures provided by the American National Standards Institute N18.7. Therefore, the proposed revision to FNP's QAP is found acceptable by the staff. Our Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Frank Rinaldi, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

Distribution:

PUBLIC
JNakoski
FRinaldi
CHawes
OGC
DThatcher, DIPM
PDII-1 R/F
SMoore
GHill(4)
ACRS
BBonser, RII
PBalmain, DIPM
BSmith, EDO

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML031060502

OFFICE	PDII-1/PM	PDII-1/LA	DE/IEHB	OGC	PDII-1/SC
NAME	FRinaldi	CHawes	DThatcher	NA	JNakoski
DATE	4/8/03	4/8/03	4/9/03	/ /03	4/15/03

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

REVISION TO QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, INC

JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT

DOCKET NOS. 50-348 AND 50-364

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated February 13, 2003 (Ref.1), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) requested approval of a proposed revision to the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) described in the Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Units 1 and 2, Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) Chapter 17. This revision would delete the presently approved QAP description in UFSAR Chapter 17 that designates procedure approval authority to the Quality Assurance Manager (QAM) for administrative procedures that are organizationally assigned to the Nuclear Plant General Manager (NPGM) and the Nuclear Support General Manager (NSGM). The proposed QAP revision would designate the NPGM as having procedure approval authority for administrative procedures assigned to the NPGM, and designate the NSGM as having procedure approval authority for administrative procedures assigned to the NSGM. SNC submitted this request in accordance with the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.54(a)(4) as a change to the QAP description that reduces commitments.

2.0 EVALUATION

For the proposed changes to licensee's procedures, Section 5.4 of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) N18.7-1976, as endorsed by Regulatory Guide 1.33 (Ref. 3) requires approval by the management representative assigned approval authority.

The QAP currently requires that the QAM approve all administrative procedures listed in the Operations Quality Assurance Policy Implementation List (OQAPIL). The OQAPIL is a procedure listing that divides FNP administrative procedures organizationally into three areas: 1) procedures issued by the NPGM, 2) procedures issued by the NSGM, and 3) procedures issued by the QAM. The revised QAP removes the approval authority designation of the QAM from procedures issued by the NPGM and NSGM, but retains the QAM approval authority for procedures issued by the QAM.

SNC's assignment of the NPGM as having procedure approval authority for administrative procedures assigned to the NPGM; the NSGM as having procedure approval authority for administrative procedures assigned to the NSGM; and the QAM as having approval authority for procedures assigned to the QAM, remains consistent with the intent of ANSI N18.7 Section 5.4 and is acceptable to the staff.

The proposed revision reassigns the procedure review function from the QAM to the QAM staff or other QA personnel. This reassignment reflects the licensee's actual procedure review process and does not affect the quality of the reviews. The removal of the OQAPIL from the QAP does not remove or reduce the QAP review or audit commitments required to comply with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, as described in QAP Section 17.2.18, "AUDITS" and QAP Section 17.2.20, "Review and Audit - Test and Operation."

3.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed revision to the FNP QAP continues to comply with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, and is consistent with ANSI N18.7 guidance for approval of procedures. Therefore, the proposed revision to FNP's QAP is found acceptable by the staff.

4.0 REFERENCES

1. Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., (J. B. Beasley, Jr.) letter to USNRC, "Quality Assurance Program Change - Deletion of QA Manager Approval of Site Administrative Procedures and Elimination of the Operations Quality Assurance Policy Implementation List," February 13, 2003.
2. American National Standard Institute (ANSI) N18.7-1976, "Administrative Controls and Quality Assurance for the Operational Phase of Nuclear Power Plants."
3. Regulatory Guide 1.33, "Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Operation)," Revision 2.

Principal Contributor: P. Balmain, DIPM

Date: April 16, 2003

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

Mr. Don E. Grissette
General Manager -
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 470
Ashford, Alabama 36312

William D. Oldfield
SAER Supervisor
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 470
Ashford, Alabama 36312

Mr. B. D. McKinney, Licensing Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Mr. M. Stanford Blanton
Balch and Bingham Law Firm
Post Office Box 306
1710 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Mr. J. D. Woodard
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
434 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1701

Chairman
Houston County Commission
Post Office Box 6406
Dothan, Alabama 36302

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7388 N. State Highway 95
Columbia, Alabama 36319