



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

August 27, 2003

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr.  
Vice President  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT**

Dear Mr. Beasley:

On August 12, 2003, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant. The mid-cycle review for Farley involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 - December 31, 2003. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2004.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. Included in the inspection schedule are license renewal inspections. Also, we will be conducting inspections during the construction of your independent spent fuel storage facility (ISFSF). Since your construction schedule was not finalized at the time our inspection plan was developed, we will inform you in advance of these ISFSF inspections. Additionally, upon finalization of the future force-on-force program, we will be conducting an inspection at the next available opportunity to verify the effectiveness of your efforts to address the White finding identified during the previous Operational Security Response Evaluation.

The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review 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 made 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4540 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Brian R. Bonser, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Farley Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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cc w/encl:

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Distribution w/encl: (See page 4)

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