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**PROPOSED RULE PR 50**  
**(68FR 26511)**

August 28, 2003

**SOUTHERN**  
**COMPANY**

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NL-03-1751

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Comments on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for 10 CFR 50.69,  
Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures,  
Systems and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors  
(68 Federal Register 26511 dated May 16, 2003)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), the licensed operator for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant and the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, has reviewed the notice of proposed rulemaking for 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors," published in the Federal Register on May 16, 2003 (68 FR 26511). Accordingly, SNC is in total agreement with the comments provided by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) regarding this proposed rulemaking.

SNC would like to emphasize that there are two major issues in the NEI comments which must be resolved for a successful final rule. The first is removal of rule language and statements of consideration language that impose prescriptive requirements and expectations for treatment of low risk significant components. The second is maintaining the current position of the proposed rule relative to PRA capability and scope to support the categorization process. The Federal Register notice for the proposed rule raises the question of whether the proposed PRA requirements should be changed to require a full scope all modes NRC reviewed PRA. Such a requirement is neither technically necessary, nor justified, and would preclude 10 CFR 50.69 as a viable option for licensees.

Sincerely,

  
J. B. Beasley, Jr.

JBB/TMM

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
NL-03-1751  
Page 2

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Vice President, Plant Vogtle  
Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr., Vice President, Plant Hatch  
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