

December 11, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: John R. Tappert, Chief
Environmental Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Jack Cushing, Project Manager */RA/*
Environmental Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL
SCOPING PROCESS FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT
(FNP) LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (LRA)

DATE AND TIME: January 8, 2004 (Two identical sessions)
First session: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Second session: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Quality Inn
3053 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, Alabama 36301

CATEGORY 3:* This is a Category 3 Meeting. The public is invited to participate in this meeting by providing comments and asking questions throughout the meeting.

PURPOSE: To discuss the environmental scoping process for the LRA for FNP. These meetings will provide members of the public with the opportunity to provide comments regarding environmental issues the NRC should consider during its review of the LRA. This meeting is being conducted as part of the scoping process outlined in 10 CFR Part 51 to support development of an environmental impact statement in support of the LRA. See the attached agenda and *Federal Register* Notice (68 FR 68126). The license renewal application is available on the NRC web page, <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/farley.html> or in ADAMS (Accession Nos. ML032721356, ML032721362 and ML032721360).

MEETING CONTACTS: Jack Cushing, NRR
301-415-1424
JXC9@NRC.GOV

Jennifer A. Davis, NRR
301-415-3835
JXD10@nrc.gov

* Commission's Policy Statement on "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings," 67 *Federal Register* 36920, May 28, 2002

Both formal sessions will be preceded by an informal "open house" beginning one hour prior to each session for those who wish to attend. The open house will provide members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally one-on-one with NRC staff. Members of the public may register to present oral comments at this meeting by contacting Jack Cushing, at (800) 368-5642, ext. 1424, or Jennifer A. Davis at (800) 368-5642, ext. 3835, or by Internet at FarleyEIS@nrc.gov by January 2, 2004. Those who wish to make comments may also register at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Mr. Cushing will need to be contacted no later than December 17, 2003, if special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting.

PARTICIPANTS:	<u>NRC</u>	<u>Members of the Public Who Register to Speak</u>
	F. Cameron	
	J. Cushing	
	T. Liu	
	J. Tappert	

Docket Nos.: 50-348, 50-364

Attachments: 1. Agenda
2. *Federal Register* Notice

cc w/attachments: See next page

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**AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY
NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004

Two Meeting Sessions - 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.*

- I. Welcome and Purpose of Meeting - 15 minutes (F. Cameron)
- II. Overview of License Renewal Process - 10 minutes (J. Tappert/T. Liu)
- III. Overview of Environmental Review Process - 10 minutes (J. Cushing)
- IV. Public Comment - 2½ hours (as required) (F. Cameron)
- V. Closing/Availability of Transcripts, etc. (F. Cameron)

*The NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to each meeting session. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings (see agenda, above) or in writing, as described in the attached *Federal Register* Notice.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-348, 50-364]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company,

Joseph M. Farley, Units 1 and 2;

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) has submitted an application for renewal of Facility Operating Licenses, NPF-2 and NPF-8 for an additional 20 years of operation at the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) is located in Houston County, Alabama about 16.5 miles east of the City of Dothan, Alabama. The operating licenses for Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, expire on June 25, 2017, and March 31, 2021, respectively. The application for renewal was received on September 15, 2003, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the *Federal Register* on October 6, 2003, (68 FR 57715). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for renewal of the facility operating license was published in the *Federal Register* on October 30, 2003, (68 FR 68135). A notice of an opportunity for a hearing regarding the application was published in the *Federal Register* on November 5, 2003, (68 FR 62640). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of the review of the license renewal application and to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process, as defined in 10 CFR 51.29. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, "Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act," the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.53(c) and 10 CFR 54.23, SNC submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides access through the NRC's Electronic Reading Room link. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. The application may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/farley.html>. In addition, the Houston Love Memorial Library, 212 West Burdeshaw Street, Dothan, Alabama and the Lucy Maddox Memorial Library, 11880 Columbia Street, Blakely, Georgia have agreed to make the ER available for public inspection.

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) in support of the review of the application for renewal of the FNP operating licenses for an additional 20 years. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 51.95 to prepare a supplement to the GEIS in connection with the renewal of an operating license. This notice is being published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft supplement to the GEIS for public comment. Participation in the scoping process by members of the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS will be used to accomplish the following:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the supplement to the GEIS.
- b. Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to, but are not part of the scope of the supplement to the GEIS being considered.
- e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.
- f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of the environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.
- g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the supplement to the GEIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.
- h. Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared, and include any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in the scoping:

- a. The applicant, Southern Nuclear Operating Company.
- b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- d. Any affected Indian tribe.
- e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
- f. Any person who intends to petition for leave to intervene.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC has decided to hold public meetings for the FNP license renewal supplement to the GEIS. The scoping meetings will be held at the

Quality Inn, 3053 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan, Alabama, on Thursday, January 8, 2004. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Both meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS, and the proposed review schedule; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session at the Quality Inn. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing, as discussed below. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meetings on the scope of the NEPA review by contacting Mr. Cushing, by telephone at 1-800-368-5642, extension 1424, or by Internet to the NRC at FarleyEIS@nrc.gov no later than January 2, 2004. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS. Mr. Cushing will need to be contacted no later than December 17, 2003, if special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scope of the FNP license renewal review to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this *Federal Register* notice. Comments may also be delivered to the NRC, Room T-6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments should be postmarked by February 6, 2004. Electronic comments may be sent by the Internet to the NRC at FarleyEIS@nrc.gov and should be sent no later than February 6, 2004, to be considered in the scoping process. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through ADAMS at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Participation in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the supplement to the GEIS relates. Notice of opportunity for a hearing regarding the renewal application was the subject of the aforementioned *Federal Register* notice (68 FR 62640). Matters related to participation in any hearing are outside the scope of matters to be discussed at this public meeting.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection in ADAMS at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft supplement to the GEIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and separate public meetings. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge.

After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final supplement to the GEIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the supplement to the GEIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Mr. Cushing at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26 day of November 2003.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

Mr. Don E. Grissette
General Manager -
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office 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

Mr. Lonice C. Barrett
State Historic Preservation Officer/DNR
156 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 101
Atlanta, GA 30303-3600

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

Mr. Charles R. Pierce
Manager - License Renewal
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

Mr. Fred Emerson
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Ms. Betty Forbus
Director
Houston Love Memorial Library
212 West Burdeshaw Street
Dothan, Alabama 36303

Ms. Barbara Crawford
The Lucy Maddox Memorial Library
11880 Columbia Street
Blakely, GA 39823

Crystal Quinly
Task Leader
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Mail Code L-654
P.O. Box 808
Livermore CA 94550

Dr. Lee Warner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

Mr. Larry Goldman
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Daphne Field Office
P.O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, AL 36526

Dr. Dennis Hardin
Forest Ecologist
Division of Forest Management
3125 Conner Blvd. C-25
Tallahassee FL. 32399-1650

The Honorable R. Perry Beaver, Principal
Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

The Honorable Eddie Tullis, Chairman
Poarch Band of Creek Nation
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

The Honorable Mitchell Cypress, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

Mr. Jon Hornsby
Alabama Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division
64 North Union Street Suite 567
Montgomery AL 36104

Mr. Greg Krakow
Data Manager
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Georgia Natural Heritage Program
2117 U. S. Hwy. 278 S.E., Social Circle
GA 30025-4714