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December 13, 2004

Docket Nos.: 50-348
50-364

NL-04-2420

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

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
Exemption Request for Biennial Emergency Exercise Postponed at FEMA Request

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), the licensee for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) had scheduled a plume exposure pathway exercise for August 18, 2004 to support the requirement for a biennial evaluated exercise. Due to the impact of Hurricane Charley, Alabama EMA and FEMA notified SNC that they would be unable to support the scheduled exercise. Subsequently, representatives from Alabama, Georgia and FEMA have planned to jointly support a plume and ingestion pathway exercise in August 2005 (see Enclosure 1). The last biennial evaluated exercise for FNP was conducted on August 21, 2002. Since that time, SNC has performed multiple drills and exercises to ensure that adequate emergency response capabilities are maintained (see listing in Enclosure 2).

Based on the requirement of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E (F)(2)(e) to "enable any State or local Government located within the plume exposure pathway EPZ to participate" in such exercises, SNC requests an exemption in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v) to allow the date of August 24-25, 2005 as the next FNP Plume and Ingestion Exposure Pathway Biennial Exercise. Following the completion of the 2004 exercise in 2005, FNP will resume the normal biennial exercise cycle in 2006.

Should you have any questions, please contact Walt Lee at 205.992.5627.

Sincerely,


L. M. Stinson

LMS/JMG

- Enclosures: 1. DHS – FEMA letter to AEMA related to FNP Exercise
2. FNP Drills and Exercises Performed Since 2002

A045

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cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President
Mr. J. R. Johnson, General Manager – Plant Farley
RTYPE: CFA04.054; LC# 14187

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dr. W. D. Travers, Regional Administrator
Mr. S. E. Peters, NRR Project Manager – Farley
Mr. C. A. Patterson, Senior Resident Inspector – Farley

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341



FEMA

October 21, 2004

Bruce Baughman, Director
Alabama Emergency Management Agency
Post Office Drawer 2160
Clanton, Alabama 35046-2160

Dear Mr. Baughman:

The Farley Nuclear Power Plant Exercise, originally scheduled for August 18, 2004, was postponed to enable the Alabama Emergency Management Agency to provide aid to the State of Florida in its response to Hurricane Charley.

After discussion with the States of Alabama and Georgia, a proposal was made to reschedule the plume exposure pathway exercise to coincide with the Farley ingestion pathway exercise scheduled for August 24-25, 2005. FEMA has reviewed this proposal and approves the August 24th and 25th, 2005, date for the Farley Nuclear Power Plant Plume and Ingestion Exposure Pathway Exercise.

Should you have questions please contact Lawrence Robertson at 770/220-5466.

Sincerely,


Conrad S. Burnside, Chief
Technological Services Branch

FNP Drills and Exercises Performed Since 2002

08/21/02 - FNP Full Scale Plume Phase Biennial Exercise - Evaluated

11/07/02 - FNP Drill

02/26/03 - FNP Drill

06/18/03 - FNP Drill

07/16/03 - FNP Drill

08/27/03 - FNP Full Scale Plume Phase Annual Exercise

09/23/03 - FNP Off-hour/Unannounced Exercise

05/12/04 - FNP Drill

07/14/04 - FNP Drill

07/28/04 - FNP Full Scale Plume Phase Annual Exercise

08/18/04 - FNP Full Scale Plume Phase Biennial Exercise - Evaluated
(Postponed due to Hurricane Charley)