



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 14, 2012

Mr. M. J. Ajluni
Nuclear Licensing Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295, Bin - 038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 AND VOGTLE
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (TAC NOS. ME7846, ME7847, ME7839, AND
ME7840)

Dear Mr. Ajluni:

By letter dated January 12, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML120130175), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC or the licensee), submitted a license amendment request to change the Technical Specifications to extend the inspection interval for the reactor coolant pump flywheels. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff finds that additional information is needed as set forth in the enclosure.

Please provide the additional information within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Martin".

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348, 50-364, 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosure:
Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (FNP)

VOTGLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (VEGP)

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY (SNC)

The purpose of the reactor coolant pump (RCP) flywheel inspection program defined in the Technical Specifications (TSs) is to ensure that the probability of a flywheel failure is sufficiently small such that additional safety features are not needed to protect against a flywheel failure. The Southern Nuclear Operating Company submitted a license amendment application (LAR) dated January 12, 2012, proposed to change the TS inspection interval for the RCP flywheels from 10 to 20 years for the FNP and the VEGP. In the *Federal Register* (FR) Notice of October 22, 2003 (68 FR 60422), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff announced the availability of a model LAR, no significant hazards consideration determination and safety evaluation for use by licensees in proposing extension of the flywheel examination frequency. The associated change to the Standard Technical Specifications (STS) for Westinghouse plants (NUREG-1431), designated as Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF)-421, was based on the premise that licensee's TS would be consistent with the STS, as follows:

TS 5.5.7, "Reactor Coolant Pump Flywheel Inspection Program"

This program shall provide for the inspection of each reactor coolant pump flywheel per the recommendations of Regulatory Position C.4.b of Regulatory Guide [RG] 1.14, Revision 1, August 1975.

In lieu of Position C.4.b(1) and C.4.b(2), a qualified in-place UT examination over the volume from the inner bore of the flywheel to the circle one-half of the outer radius or a surface examination (MT and/or PT) of exposed surfaces of the removed flywheels may be conducted at 20 year intervals.

Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.14, "Reactor Coolant Pump Flywheel Integrity," Revision 1, Position C.4.b includes five parts. Regarding Parts C.4.b(1) and C.4.b(2), the NRC staff finds that the current FNP and VEGP TS are consistent with the provisions of the second STS paragraph above for an inspection interval of 10 years.

However, since the current FNP and VEGP TS do not include the provisions of the first STS paragraph above, there would be no requirements in the proposed revised FNP and VEGP TS for the actions required by RG 1.14, positions C.4.b(3), C.4.b(4), and C.4.b(5).

Please provide either (a) a justification for the extension of the inspection interval from 10 to 20 years absent the inclusion of the provisions of RG 1.14, positions C.4.b(3), C.4.b(4) and C.4.b(5) in the FNP and VEGP TS, or (b) propose a revision to the LAR of January 12, 2012, to include a paragraph comparable to the first STS paragraph, as noted above.

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Please provide the additional information within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
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* By memo dated

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DATE	06/08/12	06/14/12	06/14/12	

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