



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

July 17, 2012

Mr. T. A. Lynch
Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
P.O. Drawer 470, BIN B500
Ashford, AL 36312

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT – NRC OPERATOR LICENSE
EXAMINATION REPORT (05000348/2012301 AND 05000364/2012301)

Dear Mr. Lynch:

During the period June 18 – 22, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating tests to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant. At the conclusion of the tests, the examiners discussed preliminary findings related to the operating tests and the written examination submittal with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examination was administered by your staff on June 28, 2012.

Three Reactor Operator (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. One RO applicant failed the written examination. There were no post-examination comments. A Simulator Fidelity Report is included in this report as Enclosure 2.

The initial examination submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. All examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and your staff were made according to NUREG-1021, Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors, Revision 9, Supplement 1.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document

system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 997- 4436

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark E. Franke, Chief
Operations Branch 2
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos: 50-348 and 50-364
License Nos: NPF-2 and NPF-8

Enclosures

1. Report Details
2. Simulator Fidelity Report

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☒ PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ☐ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ☐ SENSITIVE ☒ NON-SENSITIVE
 ADAMS: ☒ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____ ☒ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE ☐ FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS	HQ:DIRS	RII:DRP	RII:DRS		
SIGNATURE	RA	RA	RA	RA	RA		
NAME	CABALLERO	BACON	CURRIE	EHRHARDT	FRANKE		
DATE	7/16/2012	7/12/2012	7/13/2012	7/17/2012	7/17/2012		
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY
 DOCUMENT NAME: G:\OLEXAMS\FARLEY EXAMINATIONS\INITIAL EXAM 2012-301 (BRUNO)\CORRESPONDENCE\FARLEY
 EXAM REPORT 2012301 FINAL.DOCX

cc w/encls:

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Letter to T. A. Lynch from Mark E. Franke dated July 17, 2012.

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT – NRC OPERATOR LICENSE
EXAMINATION REPORT (05000348/2012301 AND 05000364/2012301)

Distribution w/encls:

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No.: 05000348, 05000364

License Nos.: NPF-2, NPF-9

Report No.: 05000348/2012301 AND 05000364/2012301

Licensee: Southern Nuclear Company (SNC), LLC

Facility: Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

Location: Ashford, AL

Dates: Operating Test – June 18 – 22, 2012
Written Examination – June 28, 2012

Examiners: Bruno Caballero, Chief Examiner, Senior Operations Engineer
Dan Bacon, Operations Engineer
Sean Currie, Reactor Engineer

Approved by: Mark E. Franke, Chief
Operations Branch 2
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000348/2012301 and 05000364/2012301; June 18 – 22, 2012, & June 28, 2012, Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant; Units 1 and 2 Operator License Examinations.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners conducted an initial examination in accordance with the guidelines in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements identified in 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45, as applicable.

Members of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant staff developed both the operating tests and the written examination.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period June 18 – 22, 2012. Members of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant training staff administered the written examination on June 28, 2012. Three Reactor Operator (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. Eight applicants were issued licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered.

There were no post-examination comments.

No findings were identified.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

a. Inspection Scope

Members of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant staff developed both the operating tests and the written examination. All examination material was developed in accordance with the guidelines contained in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC examination team reviewed the proposed examination. Examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were made per NUREG-1021 and incorporated into the final version of the examination materials.

The NRC reviewed the licensee's examination security measures while preparing and administering the examinations in order to ensure compliance with 10 CFR §55.49, "Integrity of examinations and tests."

The NRC examiners evaluated four Reactor Operator (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants using the guidelines contained in NUREG-1021. The examiners administered the operating tests during the period June 18 – 22, 2012. Members of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant training staff administered the written examination on June 28, 2012. Evaluations of applicants and reviews of associated documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, met the requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses."

b. Findings

No findings were identified. The NRC determined, using NUREG-1021, that the licensee's initial examination submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

Three RO applicants and six SRO applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. One RO applicant passed the operating test but did not pass the written examination. Three RO applicants and five SRO applicants were issued licenses.

One SRO applicant passed the operating test, but passed the written examination with overall score between 80% and 82%. This applicant was issued a letter stating that he/she passed the examination and issuance of their license has been delayed pending any written examination appeals that may impact the licensing decision for their application.

Copies of all individual examination reports were sent to the facility Training Manager for evaluation of weaknesses and determination of appropriate remedial training.

The licensee did not submit any post-examination comments. A copy of the final written examination and answer key, with all changes incorporated, may be accessed not

earlier than June 26, 2014, in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Number(s) ML12191A180 and ML12191A177).

4OA6 Meetings, Including Exit

Exit Meeting Summary

On June 22, 2012, the NRC Chief Examiner discussed the operating test with Mr. Tom Lynch, Site Vice President, and members of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant staff. The examiners asked the licensee if any of the examination material was proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee personnel

Tom Lynch, Site Vice President
Cheryl Gayheart, Plant Manager
Bill Oldfield, Lead Engineer Licensing
Lisa Hogg, Nuclear Technical Specialist
Donna Christensen, Training Manager
David Reed, Operations Support Superintendent
Richard Gayheart, Fleet Training
Barbara Taylor, Performance Improvement Supervisor
Thomas Campbell, Nuclear Oversight Assessor
Brian Reed, Nuclear Operations Plant Lead Instructor
Gary Ohmstede, Operations Training Supervisor

NRC personnel

Jeff Sowa, Resident Inspector
Ed Crowe, Senior Resident Inspector

SIMULATOR FIDELITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

Facility Docket Nos.: 05000348, 05000364

Operating Test Administered: June 18 – 22, 2012

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71111.11 are not indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

No simulator fidelity or configuration issues were identified.