

Alabama Power Company  
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F. L. CLAYTON, JR.  
Senior Vice President



August 7, 1979

Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555  
Attn: Mr. A. Schwencer

J. M. Farley Nuclear Plant  
Docket No. 50-348  
Containment Purge Valves

Dear Mr. Schwencer:

In a meeting held on July 31, 1979 between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Alabama Power Company, the NRC requested commitments from Alabama Power Company concerning operation of both the 48-inch and 18-inch purge valves used at the Farley Nuclear Plant.

Alabama Power Company commits to maintain the 48-inch containment purge valves in the closed position in modes 1, 2, 3, and 4 until it can be demonstrated that the valves will meet functional requirements during accident conditions. The valve supplier, Henry Pratt Co., indicated that there would be no question that the 48-inch valves would function properly under accident conditions from a 65 percent open position. Alabama Power Company is pursuing verification of methods to block the maximum open position of the 48-inch valves. Further information will be provided upon completion of this verification.

The valve supplier has conducted further analysis on the 18-inch containment purge valves that demonstrate that the valves meet operability requirements under all accident conditions. Maximum torque developed under worst case conditions is 12,000 in.-lb. which is less than the 15,000 in.-lb. used as design criteria for the valves. These torque values result in stresses much less than the yield point for materials used.

Alabama Power Company's position, therefore, remains that continuous purging during operation with the 18-inch (mini-purge) valves is safe under all accident conditions.

Very truly yours,

  
F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLCJr/TNE:bhj

cc: Mr. R. A. Thomas  
Mr. G. F. Trowbridge

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