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March 1, 1983

Docket No. 50-348

Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. S. A. Varga

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Unit 1
Rod Swap Methodology

Gentlemen:

Westinghouse has submitted to the NRC for review "Rod Bank Worth Measurements Utilizing Bank Exchange - May 1982," WCAP-9863 (proprietary) and WCAP-9864 (non-proprietary), which describes a rod swap methodology. This rod swap methodology is an improved method for measuring control rod worth over the present boron dilution method by: 1) reducing the amount of refueling outage time by approximately 24 to 36 hours, 2) reducing the amount of water processing during startup, and 3) increasing the shutdown margin. It is Alabama Power Company's understanding that the NRC will complete its review of WCAP-9863 and issue its final evaluation in early 1983.

Alabama Power Company has initiated the development of plant specific procedures and the performance of fuel-cycle specific calculations to utilize the rod swap methodology specified in WCAP-9863. The methodology is intended to be followed for Cycle 5 at Farley Nuclear Plant - Unit 1 scheduled to startup in mid to late March 1983. As discussed with Mr. E. A. Reeves, NRC Project Manager for the Farley Nuclear Plant, Alabama Power Company intends to proceed with the new rod swap methodology for Cycle 5, rather than wait for NRC generic approval, to take advantage of the improvements offered by this methodology. Additionally, this methodology is currently in use at another operating nuclear plant similar in design to the Farley Nuclear Plant.

ADD 1

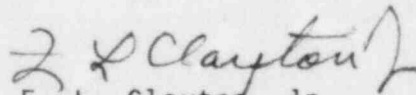
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Alabama Power Company has reviewed the benefits of the new rod swap methodology and has determined that it offers a better and safer way to measure rod bank worth. During measurement of rod bank worth, the capability for greater shutdown margin and thus an increased margin of safety at Farley Nuclear Plant is accomplished through the use of the rod swap methodology by maintaining greater concentrations of boron in the reactor coolant system. Therefore, the application of the new methodology represents an improvement in overall plant safety at the Farley Nuclear Plant.

If there are any questions regarding this action, please advise.

Yours truly,


F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLCJr/GGY:jc-D13

cc: Mr. R. A. Thomas
Mr. G. F. Trowbridge
Mr. J. P. O'Reilly
Mr. E. A. Reeves
Mr. W. H. Bradford