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May 18, 1983

Docket Nos. 50-348  
50-364

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

Attention: Mr. S. A. Varga

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Units 1 and 2  
Natural Circulation Cooldown (Generic Letter No. 81-21)

Gentlemen:

In a letter to the NRC dated September 13, 1982, Alabama Power Company committed to furnish an assessment of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant procedures and training program for natural circulation cooldown ninety days after receipt of approved Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) procedural guidelines. The approved WOG procedural guidelines were received on February 17, 1983 by Alabama Power Company and natural circulation cooldown procedures are being developed to incorporate these guidelines. Revised natural circulation cooldown procedures are currently scheduled to be incorporated into the Farley Nuclear Plant Emergency Operating Procedures by June 15, 1983.

The WOG has developed natural circulation cooldown procedural guidelines as a part of the WOG Emergency Response Guidelines program. These procedural guidelines provide for natural circulation cooldown with and without a void in the reactor vessel head. Westinghouse has evaluated the effects of cooling down with a void in the reactor head and determined that such cooldown is acceptable. The revised Farley Nuclear Plant Operating Procedures will specify a cooldown rate and the reactor operators will be cautioned to closely monitor pressurizer level during natural circulation cooldown. In addition, the reactor operators will be advised of the possibility of void formation if the pressurizer level increases rapidly.

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The Farley Technical Specifications require a minimum of 150,000 gallons of condensate-grade auxiliary feedwater be available to support natural circulation cooldown. Recent Westinghouse analyses have concluded that this quantity of auxiliary feedwater is sufficient to support natural circulation cooldown.

The reactor operator training program at Farley Nuclear Plant consists of both initial and requalification phases. During initial training, all procedures pertaining to natural circulation cooldown are studied, discussed in class and then applied during simulator training. As a part of requalification training, the procedures are reviewed and then applied during the annual simulator training. During the most recent requalification cycle, copies of the approved WOG procedural guidelines, from which the Farley procedures are being derived, were discussed. All reactor operators are scheduled to complete this training by May 19, 1983.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Yours very truly,

  
F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLCJr/JAR:ddr-D31

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