

Alabama Power Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201
Telephone 205 868-5086

J. D. Woodard
Vice President-Nuclear
Farley Project



Alabama Power

(The Southern Electric System)

May 23, 1991

10 CFR 50.55a

Docket No. 50-348

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Unit 1
Post-Modification Hydrostatic Test

Gentlemen:

During the recently completed refueling outage, Farley Nuclear Plant Unit 1 implemented a modification to eliminate the RTD Bypass piping connected to the reactor coolant system. At the conclusion of the outage, a hydrostatic test was performed on the affected portions of the Reactor Coolant System at normal system temperature of 547°F prior to returning the unit to power operation. On May 21, 1991, subsequent to returning to power operation, it was determined that the hydrostatic test performed for the RTD Bypass Elimination modification did not meet ASME Code, Section XI hydrostatic test criteria in that a pressure of 2255 psig was used rather than the 2280 psig required by Table IVB-5222-1. 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) requires that the pressure testing of ASME Code Class 1 components meet the requirements of the 1983 Edition through 1983 Addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI. Since the hydrostatic test pressure did not conform to the criteria of the Code, Alabama Power Company discussed the circumstances of the event and proposed corrective action with the NRC in a telephone conversation on May 22, 1991. This letter is being written to formally document an evaluation of the safety significance of the event and Alabama Power Company's proposed corrective action.

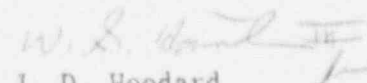
This event has been evaluated by Alabama Power Company and determined not to be safety significant. Although the hydrostatic test was not performed at the pressure required by Section XI, structural integrity of the reactor coolant system has been demonstrated by the satisfactory performance of a pressure test at a pressure above nominal primary system operating pressure and the non-destructive examination of the welds performed during the RTD Bypass Elimination modification. The non-destructive testing performed consisted of 1) PT examination of the final fillet welds on the penetrations on the hot and cold legs, 2) PT examination of the full penetration weld on the capped piping off of the intermediate leg and 3) RT examination of the full penetration weld on the capped piping off of the intermediate leg.

In order to achieve full compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a, Alabama Power Company will perform a hydrostatic test at the required pressure during the next Unit 1 shutdown period.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY


J. D. Woodard

JDW/DEMc:map 0311

cc: Mr. S. D. Ebnetter
Mr. S. T. Hoffman
Mr. G. F. Maxwell