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USNRC REGION II
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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Alabama Power

the southern electric system
July 28, 1983

Docket No. 50-348
Docket No. 50-364

Mr. R. C. Lewis, Director
U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Region II
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**SUBJECT: J. M. Farley Nuclear Plant NRC Inspection
of May 16 - 20 and June 6- 7, 1983**

RE: Report Numbers 50-348/83-16 and 50-364/83-14

Dear Mr. Lewis:

This letter refers to the violation cited in the subject inspection reports which states:

"As a result of the inspection conducted on May 16-20 and June 6-7, 1983, and in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, 47 FR 9987 (March 9, 1982), the following violation was identified.

10 CFR 20.203(e) and (f) states in part that each area or room in which licensed material is used or stored and which contains any radioactive material (other than natural uranium or thorium) in an amount exceeding 10 times the quantity of such material specified in Appendix C of Part 20 shall be conspicuously posted with a sign or signs bearing the radiation caution symbol and the words CAUTION or DANGER, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL and that each container of licensed material shall have a durable, clearly visible label identifying the radioactive contents. . .

Contrary to the above on May 17, 1983, a 55 gallon drum containing greater than 10 times the 10 CFR 20 Appendix C quantity of licensed material was located in an area which was not radiologically controlled or posted as containing radioactive material. Furthermore, the 55 gallon drum containing the licensed material did not have a label identifying its radioactive contents."

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Admission or Denial

The above violation occurred as described in the subject report.

Reason for Violation

This violation was due to personnel error. Health physics personnel failed to detect the radioactivity during routine surveys. Since the radiation level in the drum was low, it may have been masked by disposable demineralizers which were staged for shipment on the bulk loading pad. It could not be determined how radioactive material was placed in the drum; however, someone may have poured a small amount of contaminated liquid into the dry cement since only the upper 10% was contaminated.

Corrective Action Taken and Results Achieved

The drum was transferred immediately to a Radiation Controlled Area and labeled properly.

Corrective Steps Taken to Avoid Further Violations

Unnecessary waste containers such as 55 gallon drums will be surveyed and expeditiously removed from the bulk loading pad following use. All health physics technicians will be reinstructed on the importance of identifying radioactivity during clean area surveys, especially where background radiation is appreciable. Signs will be posted at gates to the Main Power Block Protected Area requiring that materials and equipment be inspected by Health Physics prior to release.

All corrective action is scheduled to be completed by July 31, 1983.

Date of Full Compliance

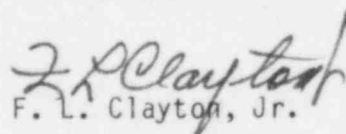
May 17, 1983

Affirmation

I affirm that this response is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

The information contained in this letter is not considered to be of a proprietary nature.

Yours very truly,


F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLCJr/KWM:nac/G-16

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