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# Synopsis

published for the people of the SONOPCO project

## Project supports valve-testing activities at plants

SONOPCO project employees whose work supports the testing of motor-operated valves at Southern electric system nuclear power plants believe that they now have a better awareness of potential problems with those valves and their motor operators.

Motor-operated valves, which regulate the flow of water or steam, are found in all nuclear power plants. Motor operators are the electromechanical devices that open and close the valves.

Among the many people working to support valve-testing efforts at Southern electric system plants are Dave Midlik, senior engineer I, nuclear maintenance support, Hatch Project; Gene Talton, project engineer, nuclear maintenance support, Vogtle Project; and Mike Eldson, senior nuclear specialist, nuclear engineering and licensing, Farley Project.

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## Joe Farley to lead Southern Company's nuclear organization

Southern Company President Ed Addison announced on Feb. 24 two major appointments in the executive management group of the Southern electric system.

Joe Farley--who has served as president of Alabama Power since 1969 and chief executive officer since 1970--was named to the new position of executive vice president-nuclear for The Southern Company. **In this capacity, he will have overall responsibility for providing management and technical services for the nuclear power plants in the Southern electric system: Alabama Power's Plant Farley and Georgia Power's Plant Hatch and Plant Vogtle.**

When necessary regulatory approval is obtained for the creation of a nuclear operating company as a separate corporation within the Southern electric system, Farley will be named president and chief executive officer.



Joe Farley

Elmer Harris, currently senior executive vice president of Georgia Power, has been chosen to

succeed Farley as president and chief executive officer of Alabama Power. Harris also was elected to the Alabama Power board of directors.

The appointments of Farley and Harris were effective March 1.

Discussing Farley's selection to head the nuclear operation, Addison said, "Our system has committed \$5.6 billion--or nearly 30 percent of our total assets--to generate energy through nuclear power. And in the nuclear power business, nothing less than excellence is adequate. Joe Farley has demonstrated that he has the professional expertise and management skills to ensure that the most exacting standards are met.

"During his almost 20 years as president of Alabama Power, the company faced a series of difficult issues, brought on by the Arab oil embargo and its upward impact on energy prices. Double-digit

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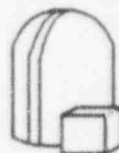
# Plant news in brief

## Fuel loading completed at Vogtle Unit 2

Georgia Power has completed loading fuel at Unit 2 of the Vogtle Nuclear Plant and will soon begin low-power testing. On Feb. 9, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) granted the company a license to load fuel and begin low-power testing of Unit 2.

The task of loading the 193 fuel assemblies into the reactor was completed two days ahead of schedule.

"Reactor assembly is in progress," said Lewis Ward, manager of maintenance and support for the Vogtle Project, "and the plant is making preparations to complete filling and venting the reactor coolant system, and to begin plant heat-up (the final stage before low power testing begins)."



After several weeks of low-power testing, the NRC is expected to issue a full-power license.

Unit 2 is expected to begin commercial operation by June 15.

## Farley to lead nuclear company (continued from page 1)

inflation during the 1970s while the company pursued a major generating plant construction program and a series of rate increase filings resulting from these and other economic forces were especially challenging. Despite these conditions, Alabama Power continued to meet the

increasing electric demands of a growing number of customers with first-class service. And, the company's return on investment rebounded from 4.5 percent in 1978 to 14 percent in 1988," Addison said.

"Under his direction, Plant Farley has achieved one of the best

operating and safety records for nuclear-powered facilities in the country. In addition, Joe Farley has been widely recognized for his work as president of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations--an industry organization that evaluates the safety and performance of American nuclear power plants."

## Valve testing (continued from page 1)

### The testing programs

The valve-testing programs began in most cases in response to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) bulletin indicating that some valves at other plants failed to operate correctly because of improper switch settings.

The bulletin requested that certain safety-related valves at all U.S. nuclear power plants be tested. Safety-related valves are a part of the engineered safety features of the plant, or those whose failure could prevent a safe shutdown or the protection of the public or environment in an emergency situation.

According to Talton, Plant Vogtle already was testing new motor-operated valves when the bulletin was released.

Talton, Midlik and Eidson have been involved in developing the

testing programs, selecting equipment and documenting test efforts. They've also attended a training program at Limitorque Corp. in Lynchburg, Va.

"Plant Vogtle's experience in valve testing was helpful to us in developing our program at Farley," said Eidson. "In March 1987, we went to Plant Vogtle to find out what they were doing." Representatives from Plant Hatch also attended this briefing.

Midlik says, "Testing motor-operated valves is different at Plant Hatch. Because we have boiling-water reactors, we have to test more steam-turbine driven systems."

Plant Hatch is assessing the requirements of an expanded program. Plant Vogtle has a program in place to test valves as needed. And Plant Farley is expanding its program and plans

to finish testing safety-related valves by 1992.

### MOV users group

Eidson is chairman of a Thrust Calculation and MOV (motor-operated valve) Switch Setting Committee with the recently formed MOV Users Group. "This committee is trying to collect all the valve-testing data that is available within the industry," Eidson said. "A large data base of standardized information will allow us to determine what factors cause poor motor-operated valve performance--design, installation or maintenance."

The valve-testing activities at Southern electric system nuclear power plants will result in increased reliability. In addition, it is anticipated that the planned programs and testing will meet future NRC requirements.