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Docket Nos. 50-348
50-364



Alabama Power
the southern electric system

January 6, 1984

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

Attention: Mr. D. G. Eisenhut

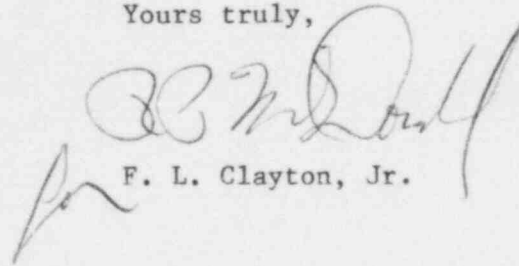
Fast Cold Starts of Diesel Generators
Generic Letter 83-41

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is Alabama Power Company's response to the subject letter dated December 16, 1983 which relates to cold starts of diesel generators.

If there are any questions, please advise.

Yours truly,



F. L. Clayton, Jr.

FLC/OWK:kc/D-324

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

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ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
RESPONSES TO GENERIC LETTER 83-41 QUESTIONS

1. How many times in the past year (December 1, 1982 to December 1, 1983) have your emergency diesel generators been subjected to a fast cold start (without prelubrication and warmup of any moving parts of the diesel generators)? Provide your data on a per machine basis, for each of the following three categories: (a) surveillance testing, (b) maintenance activities and (c) actual demands.

Response

Cold Starts of Diesel Generators
(December 1, 1982 through December 1, 1983)

Diesel Generator	Surveillance Test Cold Starts	Inadvertent Starts Due to Personnel Error or Equipment Failure	Total
1C	6	3	9
1B	4	1	5
1-2A	6	2	8
2B	3	1	4
2C	6	2	8

2. What is your assessment of the effects of frequent fast cold starts on diesel generator reliability and availability? Do you believe that they significantly degrade reliability and availability?

Response

It is the judgement of Alabama Power Company that fast cold starts exacerbate bearing wear due to the lack of prelubrication and that operating a "cold" diesel engine loaded will accelerate wear of engine components.

In December 1983, one diesel generator's thrust bearing and another diesel generator's upper main bearing were determined to be at the point of failure during maintenance inspections. In both cases, the vendor technical representative stated that these problems were possibly due to inadequate prelubrication.

It is Alabama Power Company's position that diesel generator fast cold starts should be avoided unless required by emergency situations.