



J. D. Woodard  
Vice President  
Farley Project

Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
February 28, 1992  
*the southern electric system*

10 CFR 50.90

Docket Nos. 50-348  
50-364

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

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant  
Proposed Change to Quadrant Power Tilt Ratio  
Technical Specification

Gentlemen:

The proposed changes in the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 Technical Specifications presented herein involve modifying the thimble locations required for determining the quadrant power tilt ratio (QPTR) when one excore power range channel is inoperable. These changes improve the operational flexibility of the units while still ensuring a valid QPTR determination which provides assurance that core peaking factors remain within their prescribed limits. In addition, this proposed change clarifies that when a full core flux map is performed, compliance with the peaking factor limits is assured directly without the QPTR determination.

Currently, the technical specifications specify that when an excore power range channel is inoperable above 75% rated thermal power, the QPTR verification be conducted through the use of movable incore detectors to confirm that the ratio is within its limit. This verification is done at least once per twelve hours either by using a full core flux map or by a limited scope flux map using the two sets of four unique symmetric thimble locations specified in Bases 3/4.2.4. In the event that one of these unique thimbles is unavailable, a full core flux map is required at least once per twelve hours.

The unavailability of a thimble in the past and the requirement of using all specifically identified thimbles restrict the operating flexibility of the units and place undue burden on plant operators and technical staff. To improve the situation, this proposed amendment to the Farley Technical Specifications, Attachment 1, is requested to allow the use of other thimbles under certain restrictions to provide the same monitoring capability. The proposed amendment includes a functionally equivalent, yet operationally more flexible, surveillance requirement for the QPTR monitoring when an excore detector is inoperable.

Attachment 2 contains the required significant hazards consideration analysis in accordance with 10 CFR 50.92. Based on the analysis provided, Southern Nuclear Operating Company has determined that the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications will not increase the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated, create the possibility of a new or different accident from any accident previously evaluated, or involve a reduction in a margin of safety.


Attachment 3 provides the basis for determining, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), that no environmental impact statement nor environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with this proposed technical specification change.

The Plant Operations Review Committee has reviewed the proposed changes and the Nuclear Operations Review Board will review the changes at a future meeting. NRC approval of these proposed changes is requested by February 1993.

A copy of these proposed changes is being sent to Dr. C. E. Fox, the Alabama State Designee, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1).

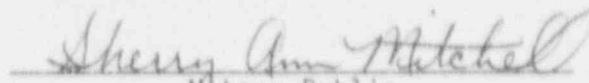
Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

  
J. D. Woodard

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME

THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February, 1992

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 12/15/92

JDW/BHW:map 1756

Attachments

cc: Mr. S. D. Ebner  
Mr. S. T. Hoffman  
Mr. G. F. Maxwell  
Dr. C. E. Fox