

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

Docket Nos.: 50-348 and 50-364
License Nos.: NPF-2 and NPF-8

During a NRC inspection conducted on September 1 through October 12, 1996, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," NUREG-1600, the violation is listed below:

Technical Specifications (TS) 6.8.1.a requires that applicable written procedures recommended in Appendix A of Regulatory Guide 1.33, Revision 2, dated February 1978, shall be established, implemented, and maintained. Regulatory Guide 1.33, Appendix A, Sections 3.s(2)(a) and 3.n recommends procedures for startup, operation and shutdown of emergency power sources (e.g., diesel generators) and the Chemical and Volume Control System (including Letdown/Purification System).

Contrary to the above, non-licensed system operators (SO) in two separate events failed to properly implement applicable system operating procedures (SOP) as written, resulting in mispositioned valves that adversely affected operability of the 1B emergency diesel generator (EDG) and initiated two plant transients. These events were as follows:

On August 23, 1996, two valves (Transfer Header To Storage Tank valve QSY52V524 and Manual Pump Discharge To Transfer Header valve 529A) in the 1B EDG fuel oil transfer system were inadvertently left open after operators completed refilling the 1B fuel oil storage tank (FOST). Step 4.8.13 and 4.8.14 of FNP-0-SOP-42.0, Diesel Generator Fuel Oil Storage And Transfer System, required that both valves be closed once fuel oil transfer was complete. On August 27, 1996, the licensee discovered both valves open and concluded that makeup of fuel oil from the 1B FOST to the 1B EDG day tank would not have been possible during the intervening time.

On October 8, 1996, a SO mispositioned two valves on two separate occasions while attempting to fluff the 2B mixed bed demineralizer in accordance with FNP-2-SOP-50.4, Demineralizer Resin Removal And Addition. During the first incident, while performing Step 4.5.1.3 of SOP-50.4 which required closing demineralizer outlet valve V167B, the SO inadvertently operated valve V167A and partially closed the valve. This initiated an overpressure transient of the letdown line. Shortly afterwards, the SO proceeded to Step 4.5.1.5 which directed him to open demineralizer Johnson screen outlet valve V161B. However, the SO misread the procedure and selected V161A, which he opened. This caused a significant loss of inventory from the volume control tank.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I).

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Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Southern Nuclear Operating Company is hereby required to submit a written statement or explanation to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555, with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region II, and a copy to the NRC Resident Inspector, Farley Nuclear Plant, within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice of Violation (Notice). This reply should be clearly marked as a "Reply to a Notice of Violation" and should include for each violation: (1) the reason for the violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the violation, (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. If an adequate reply is not received within the time specified in this Notice, an order or a Demand for Information may be issued as to why the license should not be modified, suspended, or revoked, or why such other action as may be proper should not be taken. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the response time.

Because your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), to the extent possible, it should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction. However, if you find it necessary to include such information, you should clearly indicate the specific information that you desire not to be placed in the PDR, and provide the legal basis to support your request for withholding the information from the public.

Dated at Atlanta, Georgia
this 8th day of November 1996

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