

March 4, 1997

Mr. D. N. Morey
Vice President - Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 10 CFR 50.55a REQUIREMENTS
RELATED TO THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR CONTAINMENT
JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TAC NOS. M97452 AND M97453)

Dear Mr. Morey:

By letter dated December 4, 1996, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), requested relief from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(v) (61 FR 41303) for Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (Farley). Specifically, you requested relief from the implementation of 10 CFR 50.55a related to the repair and replacement activities for containments for Farley Units 1 and 2.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information provided in your relief request. Based on the information provided, the plant's technical specification requirement to periodically assure the integrity of its prestressed concrete containments, and the short-term associated with the relief request, the staff finds that compliance with the Code requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. The alternative of delaying implementation until March 15, 1997, is authorized under 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), at which time you will begin the implementation of the repair and replacement requirements of the rule for both units.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosures: 1. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert N. Berkow", written over a large, stylized, light-colored flourish or scribble.

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

Mr. R. D. Hill, Jr.
General Manager -
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 470
Ashford, Alabama 36312

Mr. Mark Ajluni, Licensing Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Mr. M. Stanford Blanton
Balch and Bingham Law Firm
Post Office Box 306
1710 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Mr. J. D. Woodard
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
434 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1701

Chairman
Houston County Commission
Post Office Box 6406
Dothan, Alabama 36302

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, NW., Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7388 N. State Highway 95
Columbia, Alabama 36319