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Flintkings Building

DOCKETED
USNRC

Alabama Power

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

Mr. Samuel J. Chilk
Secretary of the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Units 1 and 2
Alabama Power Company Comments
on Changes to Safeguards Reporting Requirements

Dear Mr. Chilk:

In response to the Federal Register Notice (50FR166) dated Tuesday, August 27, 1985, Alabama Power Company hereby provides comments on the Proposed Rule Change to modify Safeguards Reporting Requirements. Alabama Power Company supports the NRC efforts to coordinate reporting requirements for reactor licensees and concurs with the NRC that this proposed rule should "ensure that all events requiring immediate NRC response will be reported within one hour and those pertinent to NRC analysis activities will be logged for quarterly submittal". The proposed Appendix G criteria, however, appear to be inconsistent with the NRC intent of requiring significant or potentially significant events to be reported within one hour or logged for quarterly reporting.

Specifically, for events which are to be reported within one hour, Section I(b) of the proposed Appendix G of 10CFR73 requires the reporting of "any failure of a safeguards system or discovered noninherent vulnerability in a system that could allow unauthorized or undetected access to a protected area, material access area, controlled access area, vital area, or transport for which proper compensatory measures have not been established." Alabama Power Company recommends that the term "controlled access area" be stricken from this part. A literal interpretation of the term could possibly include all non-vital equipment, systems and structures located in the owner controlled area; e.g., Turbine Building, Cooling Towers, Fire

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Protection Pump House, Security Building, Computer Building and Service Building. It could also be interpreted to include equipment rooms and systems in the Auxiliary Building which are delineated in the Security Plan and are administratively controlled by locking, alarming and securing to limit routine access to only shift operations personnel. No immediate NRC response is necessary for a failure of a safeguards system in non-vital areas such as those identified above whether proper compensatory measures are established or not; particularly, if there is no apparent intentional threat of theft of special nuclear material or threat of radiological sabotage.

Additionally, Section I(c) of the proposed Appendix G of 10CFR73 requires the reporting of "unauthorized entries through a required barrier (whether or not the event is properly compensated)." No immediate NRC response is necessary for unauthorized entries through a required barrier if there is no apparent intentional threat of theft of special nuclear material or threat of radiological sabotage. Certainly, events which are properly compensated do not require "immediate NRC response". Examples of unauthorized entries which should not require one hour notification to the NRC are those in which authorized persons in possession of a valid security badge and a key card or mechanical key fail to comply with a security procedure that has no adverse effect on vital plant systems or the safe operation of the plant. This failure could be the badged individual failing to notify Security prior to entering or exiting an alarmed security door, 'tailgating' through a barrier portal that is supervised by a card reader, or simply forgetting to keep their security badge in their possession. Such events would be better handled administratively with Plant Security Incident Reports which are available for on-site review by NRC Inspectors. Alabama Power Company therefore recommends that paragraph I(c) be revised to read as follows:

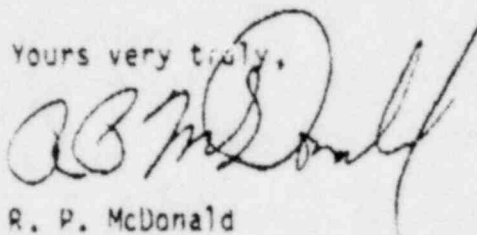
"Any unauthorized entries through a required barrier in which there is reason to believe that an attempted theft or act of sabotage is involved."

Additionally, for events which are to be recorded within 24 hours and submitted in a quarterly log report, Section II(a) of the proposed Appendix G of 10CFR73 requires logging and reporting of "any failure of a safeguards system or discovered vulnerability in a system that could allow unauthorized or undetected access to a protected area, material access area, controlled access area, vital area, or transport for which proper compensatory measures have been established." Alabama Power Company recommends that the requirement to report any failure of a safeguards system should be limited to those failures that are caused by a security related event. A failure caused by a temporary loss of power, accidental damage or minor component malfunction, which has been properly compensated, should not be reportable. The term "controlled access area" should be stricken for the reasons stated previously. Records could be maintained for all safeguards system failures and would be available for on-site review by NRC Inspectors.

Finally, Section II(b) of the proposed Appendix G of 10CFR73 requires logging and reporting of "any other failure of a safeguards system not included in paragraph II(a)" if the failure degrades the system. Alabama Power Company recommends that the temporary failure of any safeguards system, the cause of which is not security related, has been properly compensated, and does not degrade the effectiveness of a safeguards system, should not be required to be reportable. This recommendation is based upon such an event not degrading the effectiveness of the safeguards system. Records could be maintained for all safeguards system failures and would be available for on-site review by NRC Inspectors.

If there are any questions, please advise.

Yours very truly,



R. P. McDonald

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cc: Mr. L. B. Long
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