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February 6, 1986

Docket No. 50-348
Docket No. 50-364

Mr. D. M. Verrelli
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, N. W.
Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

SUBJECT: J. M. Farley Nuclear Plant NRC Inspection of
November 19 - December 18, 1985

RE: Report Numbers 50-348/85-43
50-364/85-43

Dear Mr. Verrelli:

This letter refers to the violation cited in the subject inspection reports which state:

"The following violations were identified during an inspection conducted on November 19 - December 18, 1985. The Severity Levels were assigned in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy (10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C).

Technical Specification 6.8.1.b requires that written procedures be implemented covering refueling activities. This includes receipt and inspection of new fuel.

Contrary to the above, on November 21, 1985 at 2:35 p.m., Fuel Handling Procedure FNP-O-FHP-3.0 was not fully implemented in that during new fuel receipt and inspection, the top frame fastener nuts on the new fuel shipping carriage were released by a licensed operator who had not been briefed on the fuel handling procedure prior to performing the work. The procedure required the top fastener to be released only when the fuel was brought to the vertical position and the new fuel lifting tool had been engaged. This resulted in damage to the new fuel assembly.

This is a Severity Level V violation (Supplement I)."

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Admission or Denial

The above violation occurred as described in the subject report.

Reason for Violation

The above violation was caused by personnel error in that the supervisor in charge of the fuel unload did not provide adequate control of the job. Further, the personnel involved in unloading new fuel assembly T-15 from the shipping cask did not comply with procedural requirements. The clamp at the top of the fuel assembly had been loosened mistakenly and the supervisor in charge of fuel handling checked the clamps visually but did not perform an adequate verification to ensure that the clamps were secure.

Corrective Action Taken and Results Achieved

The damaged fuel assembly was inspected and returned to the Westinghouse fuel fabrication plant.

Corrective Steps Taken to Avoid Further Violations

To prevent recurrence of this event, the supervisor in charge of new fuel handling when the event occurred was counseled on maintaining adequate control of critical evolutions. Plant Operators involved were counseled on the importance of procedural adherence and the necessity of having an understanding of the evolutions to be performed prior to starting work at any point in the evolution. Also, instructions have been added to the applicable fuel handling procedure specifically requiring a verification and an initial on a checklist that the clamp at the top of the fuel assembly is secure prior to the fuel assembly being upended to the vertical position.

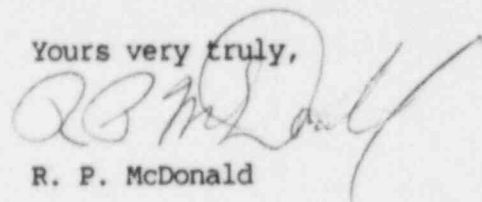
Date of Full Compliance

November 26, 1985.

Affirmation

I affirm that this response is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. The information contained in this letter is not considered to be of a proprietary nature.

Yours very truly,



R. P. McDonald