

April 2, 1997

EA 97-130

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. D. N. Morey  
Vice President  
Farley Project  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-348/97-04 AND 50-364/97-04, AND APPARENT VIOLATIONS

Dear Mr. Morey:

On March 14, 1997, the NRC completed a special inspection of the Penetration Room Filtration (PRF) system at your Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During this special inspection, apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. These apparent violations concern:

- 1) operating in a condition prohibited by Technical Specifications (TS);
- 2) inadequate operating, surveillance, and emergency procedures; 3) failure to meet TS surveillance requirement 4.7.8.b.3 in one instance; 4) failure to comply with specific sections of ANSI N510-1980, prescribed as TS surveillance requirements for Control Room Emergency Filtration Systems (CREFS), PRF systems, and Containment Purge Exhaust Filtration; and 5) excessive inleakage into the penetration room boundary that resulted in the PRF system being unable to function as designed. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for April 18, 1997. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. To enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, this conference is being held to obtain information such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violations sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out

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any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: 1) the severity of the violations; 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy; and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Pierce H. Skinner)

Pierce H. Skinner, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-348/97-04  
and 50-364/97-04

cc w/encl:  
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cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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DOCUMENT NAME: G:\FARLEY\FA704RPT.DFT

To: Bob Carrion

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SIGNATURE						
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DATE	03 / 1 / 97	03 / 1 / 97	03 / 01 / 97	03 / 31 / 97	03 / 1 / 97	03 / 1 / 97
CHART	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO