

Department of Environmental Quality, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated May 11, 1999, as supplemented by letters dated June 3 and July 28, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the Commission's local public document room located in the North Central Michigan College Library, 1515 Howard Street, Petoskey, Michigan 49770.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of October, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michael T. Masnik,

Chief, Decommissioning Section, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-26489 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Alabama Power Company, Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-2 and NPF-8, issued to Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), for operation of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Houston County, Alabama.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would fully convert SNC's current technical specifications (CTS) to Improved Technical Specifications (ITS) based on NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications, Westinghouse Plants,"

Revision 1, of April 1995. The proposed action is in accordance with SNC's application of March 12, 1998, supplemented by SNC's letters of April 24, 1998, August 20, 1998, November 20, 1998, February 3, 1999, February 20, 1999, April 30, 1999 (two letters), June 30, 1999, July 27, 1999, August 19, 1999, August 30, 1999, and September 15, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action

Implementing ITS at Farley would benefit nuclear safety. The Commission's "NRC Interim Policy Statement on Technical Specification Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors," (52 FR 3788, February 6, 1987), and later the Commission's "Final Policy Statement on Technical Specification Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors," (58 FR 39132, July 22, 1993), formalized this need. Each reactor vendor owners group (OG) and the NRC staff developed standard TS (STS) to aid in producing individual plant ITS. NRC NUREG-1432 contains the STS for Westinghouse-designed reactor plants. The NRC Committee to Review Generic Requirements reviewed NUREG-1432, noted the safety merits of the STS, and indicated that it supported operating plants converting to the STS. SNC used NUREG-1432 as the basis for developing the Farley, Units 1 and 2, ITS.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed TS conversion does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and does not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents.

Changes that are administrative in nature have no effect on the technical content of the ITS and are acceptable. The increased clarity and understanding these changes bring to the ITS are expected to improve the operator's control of the plant in normal and accident conditions.

Relocating CTS requirements to SNC-controlled documents does not change the requirements. SNC may make future changes to these requirements, but SNC must make the changes under 10 CFR 50.59 or other NRC-approved control methods. This assures that SNC will maintain adequate requirements. All such CTS relocations conform to NUREG-1432 guidelines and the Final Policy Statement, and are therefore acceptable.

Changes involving more restrictive requirements are likely to enhance the

safety of plant operations and are acceptable.

The NRC has reviewed all changes involving less restrictive requirements. Removing CTS requirements that provide little or no safety benefit or place unnecessary burdens on SNC is justified. In most cases, TS relaxations previously granted on a plant-specific basis resulted from generic NRC action or from agreements reached during discussions with the OG and are acceptable for Farley, Units 1 and 2. The NRC reviewed the generic relaxations contained in NUREG-1432 and SNC's deviations from NUREG-1432 and determined they are acceptable for Farley, Units 1 & 2.

In summary, the NRC determined that the Farley, Units 1 and 2, ITS provide control of plant operations such that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will be adequately protected.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denying the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Farley, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on September 24, 1999, the staff consulted with the Alabama State

official, Mr. Kirk Whatley of the Office of Radiation Control, Alabama Department of Public Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see SNC's letter of March 12, 1998, supplemented by SNC's letters of April 24, 1998, August 20, 1998, November 20, 1998, February 3, 1999, February 20, 1999, April 30, 1999 (two letters), June 30, 1999, July 27, 1999, August 19, 1999, August 30, 1999, and September 15, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Houston-Love Memorial Library, 212 W. Burdeshaw Street, Post Office Box 1369, Dothan, Alabama 36302.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of October, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

L. Mark Padovan,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-26493 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a new guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the Commission's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Regulatory Guide 1.181, "Content of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report in Accordance with 10 CFR 50.71(e)," has been developed to describe methods acceptable to the NRC staff for updating the content of Final

Safety Analysis Reports pursuant to 10 CFR 50.71(e), which requires Final Safety Analysis Reports to be updated periodically.

Comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Single copies of regulatory guides may be obtained free of charge by writing the Office of Administration, Attention: Reproduction and Distribution Services Section, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by fax to (301) 415-2289, or by email to <DISTRIBUTION@NRC.GOV>. Issued guides may also be purchased from the National Technical Information Service on a standing order basis. Details on this service may be obtained by writing NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of September 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ashok C. Thadani,

Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 99-26491 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a revision to a guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the Commission's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 8.15, "Acceptable Programs for Respiratory Protection," describes a respiratory protection program that is acceptable to the NRC staff. The guide also provides

guidance on performing evaluations to determine whether the use of respirators optimizes the sum of internal and external dose and other risks.

Comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Recently published regulatory guides are available on the NRC's web site at <WWW.NRC.GOV> in the Reference Library under Regulatory Guides. Regulatory guides are also available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Single copies of regulatory guides may be obtained free of charge by writing the Reproduction and Distribution Services Section, OCIO, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by fax at (301) 415-2289. Issued guides may also be purchased from the National Technical Information Service on a standing order basis. Details on this service may be obtained by writing NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of September 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ashok C. Thadani,

Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 99-26492 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

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