



**UNITED STATES**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**REGION II**  
**SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER**  
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**ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

November 27, 2000

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - FARLEY  
NUCLEAR PLANT**

Dear Mr. Morey:

On November 6, 2000, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of Farley Nuclear Plant. The mid-cycle review for Farley involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period of April 2, 2000, through September 30, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix for Unit One and the Degraded Cornerstone Column for Unit Two. Entry into the Regulatory Response Column for Unit One was based on one white PI in the Initiating Events Cornerstone (Unplanned Power Changes per 7,000 critical hours) and one white PI in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone (Safety Systems Unavailability - Emergency AC Power). Entry into the Degraded Cornerstone Column for Unit Two was based on two white PIs in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone (Safety Systems Unavailability - Emergency AC Power and Safety Systems Unavailability - Heat Removal System [Auxiliary Feedwater]).

The NRC has completed the required supplemental inspections for the Emergency AC Power Systems Unavailability PI and the Degraded Mitigating Systems Cornerstone. Your response to these issues was reviewed during these supplemental inspections and found to be generally adequate. However, one finding was identified regarding problems with your Maintenance Rule program implementation at Farley. Your reviews also identified that Maintenance Rule program weaknesses contributed to exceeding the thresholds for both the Emergency AC Power Systems Unavailability and Heat Removal Systems Unavailability PIs.

The NRC has conducted the required supplemental inspection for the white Unit One Unplanned Power Reductions PI and will be issuing a report shortly. We understand that the majority of the unplanned power changes were primarily due to aging-related problems with the plant cooling towers and you are investigating several replacement and repair options.

The NRC plans to conduct the baseline inspection program at your facility through September 30, 2001. However, we have also scheduled steam generator replacement inspections during your Unit 2 refueling outage scheduled for the Spring of 2001. These inspections are similar to those done during your recently completed Unit 1 steam generator replacement, but reduced in scope to credit already reviewed programs.

Additionally, recent inspection results, including an Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE), have identified findings in site response capabilities. The safety significance of these findings has not been determined due to ongoing revision of the NRC's Security Significance Determination Process (SDP). After the safety significance has been determined using the Security SDP, we will conduct another OSRE to evaluate your corrective actions. For planning purposes, this OSRE is tentatively scheduled for early September 2001, but may move as our planning is finalized. The NRC is continuing with the OSRE inspections until the industry proposed Self-Assessment Program is approved.

The enclosure details the scheduled inspections that will occur through September 30, 2001. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at our end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the enclosed inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Stephen J. Cahill at 404-562-4250 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes  
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos. 50-348, 50-364  
Licensee Nos. NPF-2, NPF-8

Enclosure: Farley Inspection/ Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (see page 3)

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**Farley**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**12/04/2000 - 09/30/2001**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		12/04/2000	12/08/2000	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/04/2000	12/08/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MB-SGR - SG REPLACEMENT IM2</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		02/26/2001	03/02/2001	Other Routine
	<b>PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/12/2001	03/16/2001	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/12/2001	03/16/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MB-ISI - INSERVICE INPSECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/19/2001	03/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/26/2001	03/30/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MB-SGR - STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT IM8A, IM5</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		04/02/2001	04/06/2001	Other Routine
	<b>MB-SGR - STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT IM8B</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Other Routine
	<b>MB-SGR - SG REPLACEMENT IM4</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Other Routine
	<b>MB-SGR - STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT IM11A, IM8C</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		04/23/2001	04/27/2001	Other Routine
	<b>MB-SGR - STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT IM11B</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		05/07/2001	05/11/2001	Other Routine
	<b>MB-SGR - STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT IM11C</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		05/21/2001	05/25/2001	Other Routine
	<b>MB MR - MAINT RULE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		05/28/2001	06/01/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		05/28/2001	06/01/2001	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		05/28/2001	06/01/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL PREP - INITIAL EXAM PREP</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23139	FARLEY 1/INITIAL EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		07/09/2001	07/13/2001	Not Applicable
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23139	FARLEY 1/INITIAL EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Not Applicable
	<b>PS-SEC - SECURITY</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		07/30/2001	08/03/2001	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Farley**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**12/04/2000 - 09/30/2001**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>MB PI&amp;R</b>	<b>- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION &amp; RESOLUTION</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		08/06/2001	08/24/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP</b>	<b>- RADIATION PROTECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		08/27/2001	08/31/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EP</b>	<b>- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-SEC</b>	<b>- SECURITY</b>	<b>6</b>			
1, 2	IP 81110	Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE)		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Regional Initiative
	<b>PS-RP</b>	<b>- RADIATION PROTECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/17/2001	09/21/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/17/2001	09/21/2001	Baseline Inspections