

June 13, 2002

Mr. D. N. Morey
Vice President - Farley Project
Southern Nuclear Operating
Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY," 15-DAY RESPONSE FOR JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. MB4545)

Dear Mr. Morey:

On March 18, 2002, the staff issued U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry. The Bulletin requested that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, including the reactor pressure vessel head, and the extent to which inspections have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. Bulletin 2002-01 also required licensees to provide the basis for concluding that plans for future inspections of the reactor coolant pressure boundary will satisfy applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor plants. All addressees were requested to respond to Items 1.A. through E. within 15 days of the Bulletin's issuance, or to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 50.54(f) if they are unable to provide the information or they can not meet the requested completion dates.

Your letter of March 29, 2002, provided your 15-day Bulletin response to the NRC. The staff finds that you have supplied the requested information, and has concluded that your plant does not appear to have conditions similar to those which lead to the degradation at Davis-Besse. However, the staff may issue questions to confirm or verify the information that was provided in your 15-day response to Bulletin 2002-01. We will complete a full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01 after we review your response to Items 2 and 3 of the Bulletin.

Sincerely,

/original signed by C.Patel acting for/

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

Docket No. 50-348

cc: See next page

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Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

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