

January 30, 2008

Mr. Jeffrey T. Gasser
Executive Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

SUBJECT: JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 -
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ACTIONS FOR CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER
NO. NRR-07-018 (TAC NOS. MD4151 AND MD4152)

Dear Mr. Gasser:

On March 15, 2007, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) No. NRR-07-018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML070670264) regarding dissimilar metal butt welds in the pressurizers at Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP) Units 1 and 2. This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter dated July 18, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML071990250) informing the NRC of actions taken in response to this CAL at FNP Unit 2, and your letter dated November 12, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML073180046) informing the NRC of actions taken in response to this CAL at FNP Unit 1.

In your letter dated July 18, 2007, you stated that during the spring 2007 outage 2R18 at FNP Unit 2, all six pressurizer dissimilar metal butt welds containing Alloy 82/182 material were examined to meet MRP-139 volumetric examination requirements. Five of these welds were examined with no recordable indications noted. The remaining dissimilar metal butt weld associated with the surge nozzle had ultrasonic indications, which necessitated the application of a full structural weld overlay.

Based on your July 18, 2007, letter, the NRC understands that all pressurizer surge, spray, and safety/relief Alloy 82/182 dissimilar metal butt welds have been inspected and that only the surge nozzle-to-safe end weld has been mitigated at FNP Unit 2 at this time. This completes portions of the commitments pertaining to FNP Unit 2 listed in the CAL and supporting commitment letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML070650572). As a result of the inspections, it is no longer necessary to implement enhanced inspection and leakage monitoring requirements for the reactor coolant system at FNP Unit 2. The commitments to perform reexaminations on two pressurizer Alloy 82/182 butt welds prior to October 2009, to perform mitigation and post-mitigation examination activities on the pressurizer nozzles by the end of the 2R20 outage (spring 2010), and to report results of examinations remain open. Based on actions completed to date, Technical Assignment Control (TAC) No. MD4152 will be closed. Additional TACs will be opened, as needed, to review future actions.

In your letter dated November 12, 2007, you stated that all six pressurizer nozzle-to-safe end welds were mitigated at FNP Unit 1 during the 1R21 outage. The mitigation was completed by weld overlay of the surge, spray, and four safety/relief nozzle-to-safe end welds.

Based on your November 12, 2007 letter, the NRC understands that all the FNP Unit 1 pressurizer surge, spray, and safety/relief Alloy 82/182 dissimilar metal butt welds have been

mitigated with weld overlay and inspected. This completes all of the commitments pertaining to FNP Unit 1 listed in the CAL and supporting commitment letter. With respect to FNP Unit 1, no further response is required regarding the CAL, and it is no longer necessary to implement enhanced inspection and leakage monitoring requirements for the reactor coolant system on FNP Unit 1. This action closes TAC No. MD4151.

Thank you for informing us of the actions documented in your letters. These actions may be examined during a future NRC inspection of your facilities.

Since the CAL addressed FNP Units 1 and 2, it will remain open until all CAL commitments pertaining to FNP Unit 2 are complete.

Current NRC guidance regarding CALs is contained in the NRC Enforcement Policy and the NRC Enforcement Manual, which are available at the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement.html> (click on Enforcement Policy or Enforcement Guidance) or by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-888-293-6498. The GPO is open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing

Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364

cc: See next page

Based on your November 12, 2007 letter, the NRC understands that all the FNP Unit 1 pressurizer surge, spray, and safety/relief Alloy 82/182 dissimilar metal butt welds have been mitigated with weld overlay and inspected. This completes all of the commitments pertaining to FNP Unit 1 listed in the CAL and supporting commitment letter. With respect to FNP Unit 1, no further response is required regarding the CAL, and it is no longer necessary to implement enhanced inspection and leakage monitoring requirements for the reactor coolant system on FNP Unit 1. This action closes TAC No. MD4151.

Thank you for informing us of the actions documented in your letters. These actions may be examined during a future NRC inspection of your facilities.

Since the CAL addressed FNP Units 1 and 2, it will remain open until all CAL commitments pertaining to FNP Unit 2 are complete.

Current NRC guidance regarding CALs is contained in the NRC Enforcement Policy and the NRC Enforcement Manual, which are available at the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement.html> (click on Enforcement Policy or Enforcement Guidance) or by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-888-293-6498. The GPO is open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing

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