

February 22, 2000

The Honorable David Price  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Price:

I am responding to your letter of January 24, 2000, regarding the press release issued by the North Carolina Waste Awareness and Reduction Network (NC WARN) on January 13, 2000. In your letter, you requested any information regarding the availability of the heat removal calculations specified by NC WARN and their importance to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's review of Carolina Power & Light Company's (CP&L's) application to increase the spent fuel storage capacity at its Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP).

On September 20, 1999, NC WARN filed a Freedom of Information Act request (FOIA 99-367) requesting a broad range of documents relating to the heat loads and the cooling capacity of the systems related to the spent fuel pools at HNP. As stated in the NC WARN press release, the staff complied with that request by sending several documents. Certain documents, the attachments and references cited in SF-0040, "Spent Fuel Pools C and D Activation Project Thermal-Hydraulic Analysis," were not included in the information sent to NC WARN because the NRC staff did not receive these documents from CP&L for review. The attachments and references include detailed calculations that support the results summarized in SF-0040. The NRC staff typically does not review all supporting calculations and attachments when performing a license amendment review unless the calculations are unique or there is an indication that an error has been made in the calculation. However, for the HNP amendment review, the NRC staff issued a request for additional information on August 5, 1999, which asked several questions regarding the results of calculations documented in SF-0040. The licensee responded to the staff's requests in a letter dated September 3, 1999. The staff is currently evaluating the licensee's responses. Both the NRC staff's request for additional information and CP&L's response are publicly available documents that were listed in the staff's response to FOIA 99-367.

The Honorable D. Price

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Finally, the public meeting that I discussed in my letter of January 4, 2000, has been scheduled. The meeting will be held on February 28, 2000, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Docket No. 50-400

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Sincerely,

*/RA/*

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
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Docket No. 50-400

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