March 3, 2000

Template # NRR-056

Mr. John S. Keenan, Vice President
Carolina Power & Light Company
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

SUBJECT: SECTION 7 BIOLOGICAL CONSULTATION, BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA8258 AND MA8321)

Dear Mr. Keenan:

In accordance with the Section 7 consultation process associated with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), enclosed is a new Biological Opinion (BO) regarding the operation of the cooling water intake system at the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the Department of Commerce on January 20, 2000. Based on the September 14, 1999, meeting between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), NMFS, the Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L), and the North Carolina Sea Turtle Coordinator, and the supplemental information submitted by NRC dated October 29, 1999, the NMFS has issued the new BO that contains an Incidental Take Statement (ITS) representative of the level of take that may be reasonably expected due to the operation of the plant. NMFS has also included criteria for determining lethal and non-lethal takes.

In order for the NRC to fulfill its responsibility under Section 7 of the ESA, it is requested that you inform the NRC within 30 days of how CP&L intends to meet the terms and conditions of the ITS contained in the new BO. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kimberly Leigh at (301) 415-2678 or Allen Hansen at (301) 415-1390.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Herbert Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-325 and 50-324

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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In order for the NRC to fulfill its responsibility under Section 7 of the ESA, it is requested that you inform the NRC within 30 days of how CP&L intends to meet the terms and conditions of the ITS contained in the new BO. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kimberly Leigh at (301) 415-2678 or Allen Hansen at (301) 415-1390.

Sincerely,

Herbert N. Berkow

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