

21386

JACKET NUMBER
PROD. & UTIL. FAC. 50-400-LA

From: "Judy Hogan" <judyhogan@mindspring.com>
To: "David Price" <david.price@mail.house.gov>
Date: Sun, Mar 19, 2000 10:08 PM
Subject: Thanks for your help with CP & LI

DOCKETS
10000

00 MAR 20 P12:22

PO Box 253
Moncure, N.C. 27559-0253
<judyhogan@mindspring.com>
March 19, 2000

OFF
AD

Representative David Price
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

SERVED MAR 20 2000

Dear Representative Price:

Thank you for your letters in February, the one of February 3, concerning the e-mail about the various illegal acts which U.S. Congress people had engaged in, which, I'm glad to learn, has no documentation, and your letter about the use of depleted uranium in the Gulf War and during the bombing of Serbia. I appreciate your responsiveness to my concerns. It does sound like a more extensive study needs to be made with veterans who were exposed to depleted uranium, and that the birth defects spoken of in Iraq and potential now in Serbia, should be documented and acted upon without delay. The idea that we would leave such a legacy for the people of other countries, much less visit it upon our own veterans is very distressing to me.

It was also good to see your photograph and that of Senator Edwards with Granny D, who, with many other people, is working hard for campaign finance reform. Power to them, and thanks for doing what you do. I don't always agree with your positions, but I do find you a responsive Congressperson, and I very much appreciate your help with CP & L's plan here to double its storage of hot nuclear waste at Shearon Harris. I understand that both you and Senator Edwards are calling for a full evidentiary hearing to address fully all the safety issues raised by Orange County. We do need this! It is only right, where the lives of so many people are at risk.

The early March reactor emergency at the Brunswick plant in Southport, near Wilmington, N.C., makes crystal clear the danger which many of our Triangle citizens have been worried about for over a year now. As the March 17, 2000 News and Observer article points out [attached], "...after the facility lost power because of a contractor's error ... the plant's four standby diesel generators kicked in, but one subsequently failed. That resulted in a 21-minute loss of cooling to the water that surrounds the highly radioactive fuel rods inside the reactor and in the adjacent storage pool. If a nuclear plant loses cooling for a longer period of time, the water can begin to boil away. That can, in turn, lead to a plant meltdown and in a worst-case scenario a nuclear release."

As some of us have been saying for months now, there is always the chance for human error, back up generator failure, etc., and with so much nuclear material needing to be cooled at this one plant, about 20 miles from Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and less from Cary, Apex, Sanford, Moncure,

DS02

Jordan Lake and the Cape Fear River Basin, we can't afford the risk of a catastrophic accident which would affect an area 50 miles from the plant. Of course, the CP & L staff try to be careful. But when only a small percentage ($\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent) of their profits is needed to store some of this waste material more safely in dry casks, and when their spokesperson treats the Brunswick accident as insignificant and says that those of us who are worried are *grasping at straws,* we do wonder if the plant and company leadership care about anything but their image and their profits.

Please continue to do what you can to bring the federal government into an active role in making sure that the Nuclear Regulatory Agency truly does its job. There is far too much evidence, and for this there is evidence, that they are not truly making sure that the U.S. nuclear industry keeps safety at the head of its priorities.

Thank you for listening again!

Sincerely,

Judy Hogan
919-545-9932

Encl: N & O article, *Waste Plan Opponents Cite *Event* at Reactor* by Karin Schill.

Cc: Senator John Edwards
Senator Jesse Helms
Governor James Hunt
Senator Eleanor Kinnaird, NCGA
William Cavanaugh, CEO, CP & L
Chatham County Commissioners
Wake County Commissioners
Orange County Commissioners
Durham County Commissioners
News and Observer
Durham Herald Sun
Chapel Hill Herald
Chapel Hill News
Apex Herald
Chatham Crossroads
The Independent Weekly

*** N & O article of March 17 is below:

Waste-plan opponents cite 'event' at reactor

By KARIN SCHILL, Staff Writer

A recent reactor emergency at a nuclear plant south of Wilmington has provided new fodder for a group fighting Carolina Power & Light's plan to double its nuclear waste storage at the Shearon Harris plant in southwestern Wake County.

CP&L's Brunswick plant in Southport had what's known as an "unusual event" -- the lowest form of a plant emergency -- after the facility lost power because of a contractor's error March 3. The plant's four standby diesel generators kicked in, but one subsequently failed.

That resulted in a 21-minute loss of cooling to the water that surrounds the highly radioactive fuel rods inside the reactor and in the adjacent storage pool. If a nuclear plant loses cooling for a longer period of time, the water can begin to boil away. That can, in turn, lead to a plant meltdown and -- in a worst-case scenario -- a nuclear release.

Brunswick's Unit 1, where the loss of cooling occurred, was shut down at the time for refueling.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which monitors safety at the nation's nuclear power plants, said the problem at Brunswick earlier this month was never a serious threat.

"There was no serious safety significant to this event," said NRC spokesman Ken Clark. "The NRC's concern in these situations is that they do not deteriorate into something that might become a safety concern."

Jim Warren, the director of NC Warn, the group fighting storage expansion at the Shearon Harris plant, disagreed. "At Brunswick, a lot of things went wrong which nobody expected or could control," he said Thursday. "The public isn't going to stand by and let CP&L increase the risk of a disaster at Harris just so they can save a little money."

At issue is CP&L's controversial plan to use two idle storage pools at Shearon Harris to store waste generated at the company's nuclear plants in the Carolinas. Orange County and NC Warn have campaigned against the plan, saying it could increase the risk for a serious accident at the plant. They are especially worried about CP&L's plan to tie four fuel storage pools to one reactor cooling system, Warren said. "That means the backup [power] system would be taxed more," he said. "Tying all that together creates the potential for a very large accident."

CP&L maintains the storage will be safe, and the company is awaiting approval from the NRC to open up the storage pools. The Raleigh-based utility brushed away NC Warn's effort to tie the Brunswick incident to the Shearon Harris plant situation.

"I really think they're grasping at straws now," said CP&L spokesman Mike Hughes. "This has nothing to do with the spent fuel issue, and I would encourage everyone who's hearing anything from NC Warn to take everything they say with a grain of salt. They never let the facts get in the way of a good story."

Staff writer Karin Schill can be reached at 829-4521 or kschill@nando.com
<<mailto:kschill@nando.com>>

CC: "Senator Jesse Helms" <jesse_helms@helms.senate.go...

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY) Docket No. 50-400-LA
)
(Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant))

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LIMITED APPEARANCE STATEMENT have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

Office of Commission Appellate
Adjudication
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop - T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
Frederick J. Shon
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop - T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
Peter S. Lam
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop - T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

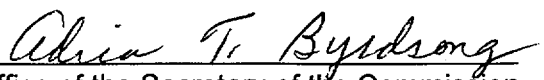
Susan L. Uttal, Esq.
Robert M. Weisman, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
Mail Stop - O-15 D21
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Diane Curran, Esq.
Harmon, Curran, Spielberg
& Eisenberg, L.L.P.
1726 M Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

William D. Johnson
Vice President and Senior Counsel
Carolina Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602

John H. O'Neill, Jr., Esq.
William R. Hollaway, Esq.
Shaw Pittman
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Docket No. 50-400-LA
LIMITED APPEARANCE STATEMENT


Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 20th day of March 2000