

December 11, 2000

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

Dear Mr. Keenan:

In a letter dated November 29, 2000, the U.S. Nuclear Reactor Commission (NRC) authorized your request for a risk-informed inservice inspection alternative. Although the staff did find that your alternative examination was acceptable, this letter is being sent to advise you of recent industry events which may have an impact on licensing actions of this type.

The recent event at the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station, in which through-wall cracking was discovered in a 34-inch main coolant loop hot leg to the reactor pressure vessel nozzle weld, may call into question the conclusions that have been made regarding the frequency of large-bore piping examination. The NRC staff will evaluate the results of the V. C. Summer root cause analysis to determine whether any generic conclusions apply to this evaluation, e.g., to the frequency of large-bore piping examination. If generic implications are found, the NRC staff will take actions as appropriate.

Please contact Donnie Ashley at (301) 415-3191 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard P. Correia, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-324 and 50-325

cc: See next page

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Carolina Power & Light Company

Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
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