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

#### Dear Congressman Price:

On June 23, 1999, Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), responded to your letter of June 4, 1999, to the Chairman of the NRC regarding Carolina Power & Light Company's request to increase the spent fuel storage capacity at its Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP). In her response, Ms. Vietti-Cook told you that the NRC staff intended to hold a public meeting in the vicinity of HNP to discuss the status of our technical review and to give members of the public an opportunity to express their concerns.

On July 12, 1999, the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) granted the hearing request made by the Board of Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina. As part of the hearing process, the ASLB established a schedule to hear oral limited appearance statements in accordance with section 2.715(a) of the Commission's regulations. The limited appearance statement sessions will be held on December 7 and 8, 1999, in the vicinity of HNP, and will give members of the public an opportunity to state their positions on matters of concern relating to the proceeding.

In light of the ASLB's decision granting a hearing, and the opportunity for the public to present comments at the limited appearance sessions, the staff will defer holding any other public meetings at this time. The staff discussed deferring the meeting with representatives of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) and they supported the staff's decision. The staff has had ongoing discussions with NCDENR regarding holding a meeting on this issue since they made their original request for a meeting on behalf of several local government agencies and individual citizens in their letter of February 10, 1999. As the hearing proceeds, the staff will continue to evaluate the need for a public meeting on this amendment request.

Sincerely,

Original bigned by William D. Travers

William D. Travers Executive Director for Operations

**Docket No. 50-400** 

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# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 1, 1999

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

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Sincerely,

William D. Travers Executive Director for Operations

Docket No. 50-400

cc: See next page

#### Carolina Power & Light Company

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