



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3415

October 22, 1999

7C [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CAROLINA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY: ALLEGED MANAGEMENT INTERFERENCE IN ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS OF A SECURITY INCIDENT (OI CASE NO. 2-1999-016/ALLEGATION NO. RII-1999-A-0065)

[REDACTED]

7C This is a follow-up to our May 26, 1999, letter from Mr. Al Ignatonis which indicated that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would initiate action to review the concern [REDACTED] on May 5, 1999, regarding activities at the Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L). Your concern involved CP&L management's alleged attempt to influence two CP&L employees who were conducting root cause analyses investigations of several potential noncompliances associated with the site access authorization program. Specifically, you indicated that a corporate manager may have directed the root cause investigators to change their findings and that [REDACTED] had been questioned subsequent to his refusal to do so. In response to this concern, an investigation was initiated by the NRC Office of Investigations (OI). This investigation has been completed.


7C Based on the evidence gathered during the investigation, OI did not substantiate that adverse action had been taken against either of the two employees you identified based on their involvement in conducting the root cause analyses investigations. Although no violations of regulatory requirements were identified associated with the conduct of their reviews, the evidence did indicate that discussions took place between [REDACTED] and at least [REDACTED] regarding the content of the report. These discussions were interpreted [REDACTED] as pressure to change the findings. However, OI determined that the root cause analysis report was not substantively changed as a result of management review, and it does not appear in this case that management inappropriately exercised its authority to influence the analysis. In fact, senior management, outside of the security organization, was responsive to concerns they received regarding this issue. In addition, the evidence indicated that the performance of [REDACTED] was questioned during this period of time; however, the evidence did not support that the comments were a result of the interactions which occurred during the review and approval of the root cause analysis report. A copy of the synopsis to the OI investigative report is enclosed.

Thank you for informing us of your concerns. We feel our actions in this matter have been responsive to those concerns. We take our safety responsibilities to the public very seriously and will continue to do so within our authority. Unless the NRC receives additional information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, exemptions 7C
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7C [REDACTED]
that suggests that our conclusions should be altered, we plan no further action on this matter. Should you have any additional questions, or if I can be of further assistance, you may contact me at 800-577-8510 or 404-562-4421 or by mail at P. O. Box 845, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

Sincerely,



Anne T. Boland, Enforcement Officer
Enforcement and Investigations
Coordination Staff

Enclosure: Investigative Synopsis,
OI Case No. 2-99-016

**Certified Mail No. Z 353 112 066
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7C [redacted]

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SYNOPSIS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II, Office of Investigations, initiated this investigation on May 24, 1999. The investigation was based on information received from a Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant employee. The employee alleged the [REDACTED] ger for Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L) attempted to influence two CP&L employees conducting root cause analyses of a security incident at CP&L. 7e

The evidence developed during this investigation did not substantiate that adverse action was taken against CP&L employees in connection with their conducting condition reports.

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