MAY. 5.2000 4:52PM SENATOR EDWARDS

JOHN EDWARDS 986 NORTH CAROLINA (202) 224-3154

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3201

May 5, 2000

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2465

Chairman Richard Meserve
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 016C1
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

As you know, Carolina Power & Light (CP&L) has proposed an expansion of its Shearon Harris nuclear waste storage facility in Orange County, North Carolina to facilitate the permanent storage of spent radioactive fuel. Given the potential impact this expansion would have on the surrounding area and the public concern it has raised, I urge you to conduct an evidentiary hearing as soon as possible to explain and evaluate the proposal.

In matters such as this, I believe governmental agencies have an obligation to citizens to cast a wide net and to hear and respond to all legitimate concerns. As such, I encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to provide this forum to listen and respond to matters pertaining to this proposal.

I trust you will give this request your full consideration and provide me a timely response. I feel strongly, given the consequences of the decision being made, that an evidentiary hearing is necessary and that you should use your discretion to require one.

Yours sincerely,

- Elwals

John Edwards

JE/pd

5/8..To SECY to Prepare Response for Secretary's Signature..Date due: May 23...Cpy to: Chairman, RF, OCA to Ack....00-0307....
ExParte communication for service SECY/RAS

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