



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

September 26, 2001

EA 2000-022

Carolina Power & Light Company
ATTN: Mr. James Scarola
Vice President - Harris Plant
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
P. O. Box 165, Mail Code: Zone 1
New Hill, NC 27562-0165

**SUBJECT: SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - FIRE BRIGADE
EVALUATION AND ADDITIONAL FIRE BARRIER EVALUATION**

Dear Mr. Scarola:

Thank you for your letter of August 14, 2001, Serial HNP-01-122, (ADAMS Accession No. ML 012330287). In that letter, you provided information to support your position that the fire brigade performance at Harris should be considered in its normal operating state. While we appreciate the information provided to support your position and your offer of further discussion on this issue, we feel that such dialog would be best conducted within the confines of the established SDP process. Hence, if the review of Unresolved Item (URI) 50-400/99-13-01, Adequacy of Thermo-Lag Fire Barrier to Meet Plant Licensing Basis Requirements, results in a finding which allows a public regulatory conference, we will be happy to discuss your concerns at that conference.

Please note that currently, characterization of fire brigade effectiveness per Phase 2, Steps 3 and 5 of the SDP is designed to qualitatively assess the degree of degradation associated with observations made of fire brigade effectiveness in conjunction with a finding in the fire protection area. Currently, we do not interpret this characterization as a finding in its own right based on a determination of compliance or non-compliance of the fire brigade with regulations. However, we are reviewing this issue internally. While NRR is aware of your concerns, we would urge you to provide your thoughts on proposed restructuring of the fire protection SDP to your industry representative for the SDP.

We are also in receipt of your letter of August 21, 2001, Serial HNP-01-123, (ADAMS Accession No. ML01239005) which provides additional information related to the Thermo-Lag fire barrier in question. We are evaluating this information and will advise you of the results of our review separately.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (404) 562-4605.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles R. Ogle, Chief
Engineering Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-400
License No. NPF-63

cc: Terry C. Morton, Manager
Performance Evaluation and
Regulatory Affairs CPB 9
Carolina Power & Light Company
Electronic Mail Distribution

Chris L. Burton
Director of Site Operations
Carolina Power & Light Company
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Robert J. Duncan II
Plant General Manager--Harris Plant
Carolina Power & Light Company
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Richard J. Field, Manager
Regulatory Affairs
Carolina Power & Light Company
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

John R. Caves, Supervisor
Licensing/Regulatory Programs
Carolina Power & Light Company
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

(cc cont'd - See page 3)

(cc cont'd)
William D. Johnson
Vice President & Corporate Secretary
Carolina Power & Light Company
Electronic Mail Distribution

John H. O'Neill, Jr.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Mel Fry, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
N. C. Department of Environmental
Commerce & Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Peggy Force
Assistant Attorney General
State of North Carolina
Electronic Mail Distribution

Public Service Commission
State of South Carolina
P. O. Box 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Chairman of the North Carolina
Utilities Commission
P. O. Box 29510
Raleigh, NC 27626-0510

Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff NCUC
P. O. Box 29520
Raleigh, NC 27626

Vernon Malone, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
of Wake County
P. O. Box 550
Raleigh, NC 27602

Richard H. Givens, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
of Chatham County
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NAME	WISEMAN	CORREIA	SPARKS	BOLAND	CASTO	BONSER	
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