

December 3, 2001

Mr. Vaughn Wagoner, Chairman
Utility Advisory Group, GL 96-06 Waterhammer Resolution
Carolina Power and Light Company
411 S. Wilmington Street CPB 6A1
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Mr. Wagoner:

SUBJECT: "RESOLUTION OF GENERIC LETTER 96-06 WATERHAMMER ISSUES," EPRI
REPORT TR-113594-V1 AND V2, REVISED SECTIONS

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) has completed its review of the information that you provided in your letter of July 10, 2001, responding to technical issues that were raised by the ACRS Thermal Hydraulic Phenomena Subcommittee concerning the above stated subject during the 468th meeting of the ACRS on November 17, 1999. In a letter dated October 23, 2001, (enclosed) the ACRS recommended that the NRC not approve industry use of the proposed Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI's) methodology for analyzing waterhammer events until there is a better demonstration that it provides results that are bounding for realistic plant configurations and scenarios. The ACRS does recognize, however, that the design-basis event scenario that causes the waterhammer concern is a very low probability event, and the ACRS could support efforts to use risk-informed approaches for resolving the waterhammer issue. Your response to the ACRS comments is requested to support our ongoing review of the subject EPRI report. We are particularly interested in your assessment and proposed use of a generic risk-informed approach to supplement the EPRI methodology and further justify its use by participating utilities.

As you are aware, GL 96-06 was issued over five years ago. As such, we are currently focused on obtaining a timely resolution of the issue associated with this generic action. Therefore, we plan to complete our evaluation of the subject EPRI report within 30 days following receipt of the requested information. We would like to complete our evaluation by February 15, 2002. In support of this schedule, we ask that you provide your response to our request by January 15, 2002.

Upon completion of our safety evaluation, the utilities that participated in this initiative will be requested to confirm completion of the actions requested by GL 96-06, consistent with the assumptions and criteria established in the EPRI methodology, including the application of risk-informed assessments as appropriate. We will also request that the participating utilities inform

Contact: James Tatum, SPLB/DSSA/NRR
301-415-2805

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us of the results of their evaluation with respect to waterhammer and two-phase flow, and of any corrective actions that were taken. We plan to issue these letters promptly after completing our evaluation (currently targeted for February 28, 2002), and we will ask that licensees provide their response within six months, which should provide enough time for licensees to complete their evaluations. Our final review of the licensees' responses and issuance of close out letters is currently targeted for December 30, 2002.

We appreciate your continuing efforts and diligence in pursuing this important initiative, and we are very pleased with the progress that you have made. Feel free to contact us should you require any additional information regarding this request or our plans for completing this review.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John N. Hannon, Chief
Plant Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Letter to Dr. William D. Travers from George E. Apostolakis Re: EPRI Report on Resolution of NRC Generic Letter 96-06 Waterhammer Issues

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John N. Hannon, Chief
Plant Systems Branch
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DISTRIBUTION: ADAMS SPLB r/f JHannon BThomas JTatum
GHammer BWetzel LOlshan JBirmingham BSheron
GHolahan SBlack EAdensam PBoehnert ACRS

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OFFICE	SPLB:DSSA:NRR	ASC:SPLB:DSSA	BC:SPLB:DSSA				
NAME	JTatum:bw	BThomas	JHannon				
DATE	11/19/01	11/21/01	12/03/01	/ /01		/ /01	

cc: Dr. Avtar Singh
EPRI
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

Dr. Thomas C. Esselman, President
Altran Corporation
451 D Street
Boston, MA 02210

Kurt Cozens
Nuclear Energy Institute
17761 I Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708