



C S. Hinnant  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer

September 24, 2002

Mr. E. William Brach  
Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
And Safeguards  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Proposed Director's Decision on 2.206 Petition Regarding  
Request to Halt Rail Shipments of Spent Nuclear Fuel Made by  
Carolina Power & Light Company dated August 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Brach:

Carolina Power & Light Company ("CP&L") is pleased to submit brief comments regarding the proposed Director's Decision on rail shipments of spent nuclear fuel. We have carefully reviewed the proposed Director's Decision and believe that it fully addresses the issues raised and does not contain any errors. CP&L, therefore, respectfully concurs that the proposed Director's Decision be issued as final.

The proposed Director's Decision clearly and succinctly identifies measures taken to ensure that the health and safety of the public is protected during CP&L's shipment of spent nuclear fuel. CP&L agrees with the conclusion that existing Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") regulations, with which CP&L is fully compliant, are adequate to protect public health and safety.

The protection of public health and safety has been and remains CP&L's primary concern in all aspects of its nuclear fleet operations, including the transshipment of spent nuclear fuel. We have established and maintained the highest standards of safety, security, and performance since the first CP&L spent nuclear fuel shipment in 1977. These standards have been continuously reviewed by the NRC Staff. CP&L has always met or exceeded the NRC's regulatory requirements for safety and security of spent nuclear fuel transportation.

Despite this demonstrated safety record, following the terrible events of September 11, 2001, CP&L and the NRC carefully reviewed the safety and security of all aspects of our nuclear operations. Working closely with the NRC Staff, CP&L has implemented additional security measures to further assure that, even in this period of heightened security concerns, our spent fuel shipments are protected and secure. We applaud the

PO Box 1551  
Raleigh, NC 27602

T > 919 546 4222  
F > 919 546 5473

Y/EOH

NRC's efforts to increase interactions with other federal agencies. The improved information available to CP&L allows us to prepare for potential security threats better than ever before.

In addition, CP&L has subsequently taken additional actions to enhance security based on NRC guidance, threat information, and safeguards advisories. While the specific actions cannot be revealed publicly, the NRC Staff has verified, and continues to verify, that CP&L's nuclear facilities and spent nuclear fuel shipments are properly protected. CP&L continues to review and, where appropriate, revise our security procedures in light of potential threats.

---

CP&L's outstanding record of spent nuclear fuel safety and security confirm the substance of the proposed Director's Decision and it should be made final.

Sincerely,

*C. Hinnant*