



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

March 4, 2003

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, North Carolina 27562-0165

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-400/03-01)

Dear Mr. Scarola:

On February 5, 2003, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. The end-of-cycle review for Harris involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Harris operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter of the assessment period was in the Regulatory Response Column of the Action Matrix due to one White finding in the mitigating systems cornerstone. The finding dealt with foreign material in the containment sump suction line to the A residual heat removal pump that would have degraded pump performance if recirculation flow was required. This finding was identified as White in the second quarter 2002. As stated in our Mid-Cycle Letter, dated August 26, 2002, a Supplemental Inspection conducted in July 2002 determined that the problem identification, root cause, and extent of condition evaluations for this White finding were adequate.

In addition, nine unresolved items were identified during a December 2002 triennial fire protection inspection and are under review as part of the Significance Determination Process. Supplemental inspections may be warranted if these issues are determined to be of greater than very low safety significance (Green). Also, one unresolved item discussed in our Mid-Cycle Letter involving the adequacy of Hemyc/MT cable wrap fire barrier qualification tests and installed configurations continues to be reviewed.

While plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the Action Matrix, there was an additional safety significant inspection finding during the first three quarters of the assessment cycle. As discussed in the Mid-Cycle letter, in the fourth quarter 2001, a White finding was identified dealing with a degraded fire barrier separating the B train switchgear room/auxiliary control panel room and the A train cable

spreading room. This finding, combined with the foreign material finding discussed above resulted in Harris being in the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the Action Matrix during the second and third quarters of 2002. A Supplemental Inspection was completed using Inspection Procedure (IP) 95001 for the fire barrier issue on September 6, 2002. Subsequent to this inspection, the staff determined that physical fire protection changes had reduced the risk significance of the degraded fire barrier.

In addition, on April 16, 2002 the staff issued a Severity Level III Notice of Violation in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy. This violation was identified collectively for two fire protection noncompliances. One involved the fire protection White finding discussed above and the other involved a change to the fire protection program, associated with the White finding, made without prior NRC approval. This violation was reviewed during the December 2002 triennial fire protection inspection. Further review is necessary to close the issue.

There was also a safety significant PI during the first three quarters of the assessment cycle. The Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours PI crossed the White threshold during the third quarter 2002 due to three reactor trips that occurred during the first three quarters of 2002. The PI recrossed the threshold to Green during the fourth quarter 2002. A Supplemental Inspection using IP 95001 was completed satisfactorily on December 15, 2002.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2004. In addition to baseline inspection activities, the plan currently includes a review of your implementation of the interim compensatory measures required by the NRC Security Order dated February 25, 2002, and a review of your activities in response to NRC Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) Head and Vessel Head Penetration (VHP) Nozzle Inspection Programs." The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For 2003, we plan to continue these inspections, conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. Based on our final determinations in this regard, we will notify you of any inspection plan changes.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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3

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Paul Fredrickson at 404-562-4530 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Loren R. Plisco, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Harris Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl:(See page 4)

cc w/encl:

James W. Holt, Manager
Performance Evaluation and
Regulatory Affairs CPB 9
Carolina Power & Light Company
Electronic Mail Distribution

Robert J. Duncan II
Director of Site Operations
Carolina Power & Light Company
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Benjamin C. Waldrep
Plant General Manager--Harris Plant
Carolina Power & Light Company
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Terry C. Morton, Manager
Support Services
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

Steven R. Carr
Associate General Counsel - Legal Dept.
Progress Energy Service Company, LLC
P.O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602-1551

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

Beverly Hall, Acting 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
c/o Sam Watson, Staff Attorney
Electronic Mail Distribution

Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff NCUC
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4326

Herb Council, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
of Wake County
P. O. Box 550
Raleigh, NC 27602

Tommy Emerson, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
of Chatham County
Electronic Mail Distribution

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
700 Galleria Parkway SE
Atlanta, GA 30339-5943

Distribution w/encl: (See page 5)

Distribution w/encl:
 C. Patel, NRR
 L. Slack, RII EICS
 RIDSNRRDIPMLIPB
 PUBLIC

OFFICE	DRP/RII	DRP/RII					
SIGNATURE	GM	PF					
NAME	GmacDonald:as	Pfredrickson					
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