



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
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February 7, 2006

Carolina Power and Light Company
ATTN: Mr. James Scarola
Vice President
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
P. O. Box 10429
Southport, NC 28461

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP LETTER - BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC
PLANT

Dear Mr. Scarola:

On January 31, 2006, the NRC staff completed, as part of our quarterly review, an update of our assessment of the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant. The assessment evaluated performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Brunswick safety performance during this period and our plans for a future inspection at your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supercede, our midcycle performance review letter issued on August 30, 2005.

Our review of Brunswick identified that Unit 2 crossed the threshold from Green to White for the Unplanned Power Changes per 7000 Critical Hours PI with your reporting of the 4th Quarter 2005 Brunswick plant data. As a result, we have assessed Brunswick Unit 2 performance to be in the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix.

On February 3, 2006, we were notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the unplanned power changes. We understand that seven instances of unplanned power changes between April and December, 2005, contributed to this PI performance change. Of those seven we acknowledge that three unplanned down-powers were due to main condenser tube leaks, and that you cannot finalize your root cause and corrective actions for those three until you can inspect the condenser tubes, which requires a unit shutdown.

Accordingly, we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95001, Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area, during the week of February 27, 2006. The purpose of this inspection is to provide assurance that the root causes and contributing causes of four of the seven risk significant performance issues are understood, the extent of conditions have been identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence. We also plan to inspect your current cause and corrective action plans for the three unplanned down-powers due to condenser tube leaks, recognizing that they may change after you inspect the condenser tubes. At a later date, we plan to conduct another inspection of the root causes and corrective actions for the condenser tube leaks, after you have notified us that they have been finalized.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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).

Please contact Paul Fredrickson at (404) 562-4530 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles A. Casto, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-325, 50-324
License Nos: DPR-71, DPR-62

cc: (See page 3)

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