



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 22, 2008

Mr. Benjamin Waldrep, Vice President
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

SUBJECT: BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGE TO
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.6.1.6, SUPPRESSION CHAMBER-TO-DRYWELL
VACUUM BREAKERS (TAC NOS. MD9184 and MD9185)

Dear Mr. Waldrep:

By letter dated July 7, 2008, the Carolina Power & Light Company proposed changes to the Technical Specification 3.6.1.6, "Suppression Chamber-to-Drywell Vacuum Breakers," at the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2. The proposed change will remove the requirement to perform a functional test of each vacuum breaker within 12 hours following operation that causes any vacuum breaker to open and instead require that each vacuum breaker is verified closed within 6 hours following an operation that causes any of the vacuum breakers to open. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the information the licensee provided and determined that additional information is required in order to complete the evaluation. The NRC staff's request for additional information is enclosed.

Please respond to the enclosed questions within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please contact me at 301-415-1447, if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Farideh E. Saba".

Farideh E. Saba, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-325 and 50-324

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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/RA/

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*by Memorandum

OFFICIAL RECORD

Carolina Power & Light Company

**Brunswick Steam Electric Plant,
Units 1 and 2**

cc:

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Southport, North Carolina 28461

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.6.1.6
SUPPRESSION CHAMBER-TO-DRYWELL VACUUM BREAKERS
(MD9184/MD9185)

1. Please explain why venting the suppression chamber for “extended periods,” prior to venting the drywell, has not been effective in limiting opening of the suppression chamber to drywell vacuum breakers (VBs). Are changes possible to this procedure that could eliminate vacuum breaker opening?
2. Is it possible to limit the opening of the drywell vent valves so that the drywell is vented more slowly?
3. Is it possible to increase the differential pressure setting of the VB magnetic latches?
4. To your knowledge, is this a problem at other boiling water reactors? If not, please explain why this is specific to Brunswick Steam Electric Plant (BSEP)?
5. Provide the operational history of the VBs at BSEP. For example, how long the VBs have been in service, and how many times the VBs had been opened and tested.
6. Provide the test history (including in-service testings and setpoint tests) of the VBs, and if any failures, discuss the causes of failures and failure mechanisms.

Enclosure