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

June 25, 2009

Chris L. Burton, Vice President  
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
Post Office Box 165, Mail Code: Zone 1  
New Hill, North Carolina 27562-0165

SUBJECT: SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT 1 – DAM SAFETY AND  
OPERATION INSPECTION REPORT

Dear Mr. Duncan:

Enclosed is a copy of the Dam Safety and Operation Inspection Report prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The report contains the results of an inspection that took place on April 23, 2009, of the auxiliary reservoir impoundment structures at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP). Because of FERC's greater degree of expertise and resource capacity in the dam inspection area, FERC personnel conducted this inspection in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the NRC and FERC.

As background, in October 1996, the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) was officially established under the Water Resources Development Act (Public Law 104-303). The primary purpose of the NDSP is the "establishment and maintenance of an effective national dam safety program to bring together the expertise and resources of the Federal and non-Federal communities in achieving national dam safety hazard reduction." The NDSP furthers the implementation of the "Federal Guidelines on Dam Safety" (FGDS) that have been in place since October 1979.

The NRC's efforts to address the FGDS were discussed in SECY-91-193, "Dam Safety Program Plan." In general, NRC jurisdiction over dams at NRC regulated facilities is limited to dams that are integral to the operation of the facility and radiological safety related. This excludes from NRC consideration those dams that may be on-site dams associated with, or attendant to, a licensed facility, but not related to radiological safety.

In accordance with SECY-91-193, the NRC conducts a Dam Safety and Operation Inspection to verify that licensees are adequately maintaining water control structures considered important to the safety of the facility. Specifically, the HNP auxiliary reservoir is credited as the safe shutdown water supply for the nuclear unit. Assuring the continued operational reliability of the reservoir gives confidence that an adequate water supply will be available to dissipate reactor decay heat and essential cooling system heat after a shutdown following an abnormal condition including a loss of coolant accident.

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Based on observations made during the field inspection and review of data submitted by Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee), now doing business as Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc., the FERC report found that the reservoir impoundment structures appeared to be in satisfactory condition and were adequately maintained. No conditions were noted that adversely affect the immediate safety and permanence of the structures or the operational reliability of the reservoir, nor present a threat to the safety of the public or the facility.

The report concluded that no actions are required to assure continued safety of the dam. However, HNP is advised to continue programmatic observation, monitoring and maintenance activities, as discussed in Section F of the report. Additionally, please review the data on page 2 of the report and provide the NRC with any corrections or missing information. This information is provided to HNP to ensure that all appropriate actions have been captured in the licensee's corrective action program, and that all information is correct.

At FERC's request, the enclosure is not being made publicly available since it contains critical energy infrastructure information. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-3178.

Sincerely,



Marlayna Vaaler, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-400

Enclosure: As stated

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