



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

September 1, 2011

Carolina Power and Light Company
Mr. Michael J. Annacone
Vice President
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
P. O. Box 10429
Southport, NC 28461

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT UNIT 1
AND UNIT 2 (REPORT 05000325/2011006 AND 05000324/2011006)**

Dear Mr. Annacone:

On August 10, 2011, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant Units 1 and 2. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at Brunswick Steam Electric Plant Units 1 and 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix based on one inspection finding classified as low to moderate safety significance (White) in the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone related to untimely augmentation of on-shift staffing during a declaration of an Alert emergency classification. This finding was identified on September 29, 2010. A 95001 inspection to review this issue was completed on May 5, 2011, and Brunswick was transitioned back to the licensee response column in the third quarter of 2011. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In addition to ROP baseline inspection activities, we also plan on conducting initial operator licensing examinations.

In the days following the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident." The Commission is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine whether additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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).

Please contact Randy Musser at (404) 997-4603 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard P. Croteau, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Brunswick Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl.: (See page 3)

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cc w/encl:
Edward L. Wills, Jr.
Director Site Operations
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Joseph M. Frisco, Jr
Plant General Manager
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Progress Energy
Electronic Mail Distribution

Phyllis N. Mentel
Manager, Support Services
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Annette H. Pope
Supervisor, Licensing/Regulatory Programs
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Randy C. Ivey
Manager, Nuclear Oversight
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.
Electronic Mail Distribution

Paul E. Dubrouillet
Manager, Training
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Electronic Mail Distribution

Kelvin Henderson, General Manager
Nuclear Fleet Operations
Progress Energy
Electronic Mail Distribution

Joseph W. Donahue, Vice President
Nuclear Oversight
Progress Energy
Electronic Mail Distribution

David T. Conley, Senior Counsel
Legal Department
Progress Energy
Electronic Mail Distribution

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

Peggy Force
Assistant Attorney General
State of North Carolina
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, NC 27602

Chairman
North Carolina Utilities Commission
Electronic Mail Distribution

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

Brunswick County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 249
Bolivia, NC 28422

Public Service Commission
State of South Carolina
P.O. Box 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

W. Lee Cox, III, Section Chief
Radiation Protection Section
N.C. Department of Environmental
Commerce & Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Warren Lee
Emergency Management Director
New Hanover County Department of
Emergency Management
230 Government Center Drive
Suite 115
Wilmington, NC 28403

CP&L

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Letter to Michael J. Annacone from Richard P. Croteau dated September 1, 2011.

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C. Evans, RII EICS

L. Douglas, RII EICS

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