

June 24, 1986

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Mr. Kenneth W. Hunt
422 Tinkerbell Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I am pleased to respond to your letter to Mr. Denton which we received June 2, 1986, in which you expressed concern regarding Carolina Power and Light's (CP&L) request for an exemption from "a full scale emergency evacuation practice" for the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant. You also state that "nor should the extent of the evacuation area be reduced."

The regulations do not require that a full scale emergency preparedness exercise be conducted prior to plant operation of up to 5% of rated power. CP&L's exemption request was that they not be required to perform a full scale emergency preparedness prior to exceeding 5% of rated power. By letter dated June 10, 1986, CP&L stated that they are now in the process of consulting with involved off-site response organizations on the scheduling of exercises for the Shearon Harris Plant. Furthermore, CP&L requested that the NRC staff hold in abeyance active review of the exemption request and the request for a hearing until the consulting process has been completed. At that point, CP&L will then provide additional information to the NRC staff for review. Consequently, the NRC staff will not act on this matter until the above cited additional information has been provided.

In response to your statement regarding the reduction of the evacuation area, the NRC has not received any request from CP&L to reduce the emergency area for the Shearon Harris plant.

I hope that the above discussion has been responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bart C. Buckley, Senior Project Manager
PWR Project Directorate No. 2
Division of PWR Licensing-A
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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