MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
Helping Build Mississippi
P. O. BOX 1640, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

January 15, 1980

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, N. W., Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

ATTENTION: Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
File 0260/L-860.0/10970/8010/9920
IE Inspection Report Nos.
50-416/79-15 and 50-417/79-15
(PGCC)
AECM-80/20

In our letter to you of November 12, 1979, Mississippi Power & Light Company (MP&L) requested an extension until January 15, 1980 to respond to the subject inspection report and infraction contained therein. Further, we stated that our response would be dependent upon interpretations rendered at a meeting with NRC to be held November 16, 1979 in Bethesda, Maryland.

The subject infraction noted that certain activities were apparently not conducted in full compliance with the requirements of the Grand Gulf FSAR as stated in General Electric (G. E.) NEDO - 10466, Revision 1. The November 16, 1979 meeting was requested in order for G. E. to discuss the intent of that NEDO document with the Regulatory Staff. During that meeting, G. E. clarified the intent of the NEDO reference to MIL-5015 G and described the requirements placed on the connectors. Additionally, G. E. discussed the rationale used to develop the 8 and 15 pound pull test values and results of preliminary tests that have been conducted to confirm the adequacy of those values. Validity of field inspections conducted at the Grand Gulf site was also addressed.

In a letter of December 13, 1979 to O. D. Parr of the NRC, G. E. documented all the information presented at the meeting and proposed revisions to the NEDO to remove any ambiguities regarding connector requirements. In a letter from E. P. Stroupe of G. E. to O. D. Parr on January 10, 1980, Errata and Addenda sheets applicable to NEDO 10466-A were submitted for NRC approval in order to implement these proposed revisions. MP&L will update the Grand Gulf FSAR to reflect these revisions if they are ultimately approved by the NRC.

In response to the three (3) questions asked in the fourth paragraph of your letter of October 18, 1979:

1911 174

8002110

446
8011

OFFICIAL COPY

(1) Corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved.

MP&L acknowledges that initially there were inadequate procedural controls to define connector pull test values. G. E. has determined through preliminary tests that a pull test value of 15 pounds for 16 AWG wire and 8 pounds for 20 AWG is sufficient to ensure that the connectors possess adequate electrical and mechanical properties. G. E. is now planning a full range of tests to confirm and document these preliminary results. Additionally, the connectors at the Grand Gulf site have been inspected and tested to these 8 and 15 pound pull values. The results of these inspections at Grand Gulf along with information on G. E.'s preliminary tests for adequacy of the 8 and 15 pound pull test values were presented at the November 16 meeting and submitted via the December 13 letter.

(2) Corrective steps which will be taken to avoid further non compliance.

All inspections for crimp strength at the Grand Gulf site have been and will be conducted utilizing the 8 and 15 pound criteria.

(3) The date when full compliance will be achieved.

All inspection and testing activities will be complete by September, 1980.

We believe these actions will be sufficient to address and close the subject infraction.

The subject inspection report also contained eight (8) unresolved items pertaining to the adequacy of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station PGCC cables and connectors. These unresolved items were also discussed extensively during the November 16 meeting. MP&L is addressing all of these items and hereby asks for a meeting with your office on February 14, 1980 to discuss the actions that are presently under way. These actions are summarized in the following paragraphs.

G. E. is launching a comprehensive testing program to determine the effects of various anomolous conditions on performance of cable/connector assemblies during design life as installed in PGCC. Anomolies tested will include low force crimps, damaged insulation and broken wire strands. Aging, seismic and environmental effects will be evaluated for these anomolous conditions. Cable connector clamps will be included in the scope of these tests. As stated above, these tests are scheduled to be complete by September, 1980.

MP&L is evaluating a proposal from a consultant possessing laboratory facilities and expertise sufficient to perform independent tests to verify the overall quality of the PGCC connectors in their present state. No determination has yet been made on the scope or magnitude of work necessary for MP&L to assure this quality level; however, we expect to finalize this plan in the very near future.

The purpose of the February 14, 1980 meeting that we are requesting is to present the test plans and describe all the actions being taken by MP&L to resolve the spectrum of concerns expressed by D. K. Walters.

Yours truly,

J. P. McGaughy, Jr.
Director of Power Production

LFD/pa

cc: Mr. N. L. Stampley
Mr. R. B. McGehee
Mr. T. B. Conner

Mr. Victor Stello, Jr., Director
Division of Inspection & Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555