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POWER & LIGHT / 142 DELARONDE STREET
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May 2, 1980

D. L. ASWELL
Vice President-Power Production

LPL 13866
3-A1.05.01

Mr. Albert Schwencer, Chief
Licensing Project, Branch 2
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Bethesda, Maryland

SUBJECT: Waterford 3 SES
Docket No. 50-382
Press Release

Dear Mr. Schwencer:

As promised during the telephone conversation with our F. J. Drur and on May 1, 1980, we have enclosed a copy of the press release announcing the slowdown at Waterford 3.

Yours very truly,

D. L. Aswell
D. L. Aswell

DLA/RWP/ddc

cc: D. L. Aswell
Bill Kane
Bob Benedict
E. Blake

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News Release



LOUISIANA POWER & LIGHT • PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, 142 DELARONDE ST., NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70174 • TELEPHONE (504) 366-2345

May 1, 1980

Contact: O. K. LeBlanc
363-8826

Due to anticipated delays in obtaining an operating license and financial limitations, Louisiana Power & Light Company announced today it will be forced to slow construction on its Waterford 3 nuclear generating unit at Taft in St. Charles Parish. The announcement was made by LP&L's president, J. M. Wyatt.

In announcing the slowdown, Wyatt stated that the construction work force at the Taft site would be reduced from the current 3,000 to 2,000 commencing May 2. "This slowdown," Wyatt pointed out, "will result in commercial operation of Waterford 3 unit in late 1982 - about a year later than previously projected."

"We have studied and reviewed every possible alternative for maintaining our current Waterford 3 construction schedule," Wyatt said, "but faced with a contested hearing for our operating license and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's crowded schedule due to the delays as a consequence of the Three Mile Island accident, a slowdown on construction was our only choice. In addition," Wyatt continued, "the Waterford 3 project during 1979 experienced severe shortages and turnover of skilled craftsmen, which, in itself, contributed to unavoidable delays."

In elaborating on a contested hearing for its operating license, Wyatt stated that this was the result of the Oystershell Alliance, Save Our Wetlands, and the

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Louisiana Consumers League having been granted intervenor status by the NRC Licensing Board. "A contested hearing as opposed to a non-contested hearing," Wyatt explained, "represents a 12 to 13 months' delay in being granted an operating license for a nuclear power plant. With inflation continuing to mount and the high turnover in skilled craftsmen, LP&L is certainly faced with additional cost in completing this major construction project."

"We have consulted the NRC staff regarding our proposed slowdown and new completion date," Wyatt stated, "and they have indicated that the new construction schedule is realistic in view of their crowded schedule. This along with LP&L's limited financial capability requires us to take the action we're taking."