

57-24181471
August 20, 1980

W. P. Sayles
President and Chief Executive

Mr. Victor Stello, Director
Office of Inspection & Enforcement
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Stello:

The NRC Meeting in Bay City yesterday was very heartening to me from several standpoints. I was most pleased with the way you handled the meeting, the direct answers you gave, and the positive comments that were made by your people.

For some 15 years I worked directly with the legislative and regulatory agencies here in Texas and I do not believe that we need an adversary position as you have your job to do and we have ours, and working together we can certainly make our respective duties easier and more pleasant by having a good working relationship. I sensed that attitude on the part of the NRC yesterday and I was very pleased to see it.

I became CEO of Central Power and Light Company on March 1 of this year. My first meeting on the South Texas Project was on February 29, just prior to taking over my official duties here. Brown and Root made a report at that meeting, and, frankly, I was very concerned at the end of the meeting because they left me with the feeling that they were doing the job hired to do in a rather impersonal business way. I sensed that they wanted to do the job right but I did not see the personal dedication of the top people that is evident now. To me, this is the great difference of what has happened the last four months. Brown and Root people now have a personal dedication to the project, as well as carrying out their official duties and responsibilities.

The local people in Matagorda County have made it clear to me that they expect the plant to be built safely, timely, and at the lowest possible cost. I have accepted that challenge to do everything I can in working with HL&P, the cities of Austin and San Antonio, and with Brown and Root. This project has first priority on my time and since March I have attended numerous meetings with the top management level of the owners and Brown and Root top management level people. We have also met with the CEO of Halliburton who own Brown and Root. These meetings have all been very candid and to the point that we all want the project built safely, meeting your specifications, and establishing a good working relationship with your people in order to build the plant in a safe, timely, and efficient manner.

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I am very encouraged with the attitude that I see from the Project Manager and Brown and Root. I sense a sincere desire on the part of you and your people to work together with Brown and Root and HL&P to the mutual benefit of all of us.

A large number of our customers in South Texas are on the lower end of the economic ladder. The only hope these people have to improve their way of life, their earning potential and their purchasing power, is through job improvement opportunities which require adequate availability of electric power. This project, as was pointed out, is needed for the benefit of national security and the economic growth of South Texas which results in job opportunities for the people living here or wanting to live here.

Also, I was most heartened with the attitude of the Bay City people towards the Company and the STP Plant. I assure you that I would not like to see them on the "anti" side as they would be just as potent as they are from the "pro" standpoint.

I hope to be able to meet you sometime in the near future. Again, I certainly appreciate the way you conducted the meeting and the sincere attitude which you and all the people had toward doing their job.

Sincerely,

W. P. Sayles
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