December 22, 1981

FILE: NG-3514(B)

Serial No.: NO-81-2105

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
ATTN: Mr. T. A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 2
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-325 AND 50-324
LICENSE NOS. DFR-71 AND DPR-62
FIRE PLOTECTION

Dear Mr. Ippolito:

During a recent I&E inspection by Mr. W. H. Miller, Jr., of Region II, concerning the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant (BSEP) Fire Protection Program, Unresolved Item (50-324/81-23-05, 50-324/81-23-05) was identified in regard to fire barriers located between service water pumps. The concern noted in this unresolved item was the absence of portions of fire barriers for conventional service water pump IA and nuclear service water pumps 1B and 2A. The lack of documentation showing that these barriers were no longer required led to this unresolved item. The requirement for these fire barriers was referenced in the NRC Fire Protection Safety Evaluation Report dated November 22, 1977 (refer to Sections 3.1.9 and 5.7.6).

In a joint meeting on March 9, 1979, between NRC staff and BSEP personnel to discuss the fire protection modifications at the Brunswick site, the requirement of these fire barriers was discussed. Prior to the meeting, it had been believed by NRC that the pump motors contained pressurized lubrication systems, the rupture of which would present a fire hazard to surrounding components. During this meeting, Mr. R. E. Porterfield, BSEP Site Engineer, explained that the lubrication system contained on these pumps was only pressurized to atmospheric pressure; therefore, fire barriers to prevent lubrication spray were not needed. In addition, this portion of the service water intake structure is provided with 100% automatic sprinkler protection. It was therefore concluded by the attendees that, based on the facts presented, these barriers were not necessary and could be removed. The minutes of this meeting by Mr. J. N. Hannon, NRC Project Manager for the Brunswick Plant, did not document this verbal concurrence.

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In order to close this unresolved item and to prevent future questions in this area, we request your formal concurrence that these barriers are not necessary. Please contact us should you need any additional information.

Yours very truly,

S. R. Zimmerman

Manager Licensing & Permits

WRM/1r (0604)

cc: Mr. J. P. O'Reilly