L.V. MAURIN Asst. Vice President Nuclear Operations

February 16, 1982

W3P82-0422 3-A1.10

Mr. Robert L. Tedesco Assistant Director for Licensing Division of Licensing U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Waterford 3 SES

Docket No. 50-382

Delay in Operating License Issuance

and Commercial Operation

Dear Mr. Tedesco:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that LP&L has announced a delay in the Fuel Load and Commercial Operation dates for Waterford 3 SES. The new Fuel Load date is January 16, 1983, and the new Commercial Operation date is July 15, 1983.

The attached press release provides further information.

Very truly yours,

L. V. Maurin

Vice President - Nuclear Operations

LVM:pbc

Enclosure

cc: E. Blake

M. Stevenson

S. Black

B001



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

February 16, 1982

Contact Jim Fort at (504) 363-8827

A three-month delay in the completion of Waterford 3, Louisiana Power & Light Company's nuclear generating plant being constructed 25 miles upriver from New Orleans in St. Charles Parish, was announced today by the Company.

J. M. Wyatt, president of LP&L, said the delay in construction will postpone completion of the facility to July, 1983, when it is scheduled to be placed in commercial operation.

Wyatt said the delay is being caused principally by additional retrofitting and safety requirements prescribed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Wyatt stated that the total cost is expected to increase to \$1,808,000,000 as a result of these changes and the subsequent delay.

"We are extremely disappointed in the further delay of this important generating facility," Wyatt said, "but Waterford 3, even with this additional cost, is expected to be completed at a lower cost per kilowatt than most nuclear plants being constructed over the nation. It is still expected to be an economical source of generation when compared to the alternative fuel sources of the 1980's."

The LP&L chief executive said fuel loading had been scheduled for October, but has now been postponed until January, 1983.