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Docket No.: 50-382

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 CBerlinger

Mr. L. V. Maurin
 Vice President - Nuclear Operations
 Louisiana Power and Light Company
 142 Delaronde Street
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70174

Dear Mr. Maurin:

Subject: Shoulder Gap Problem in CE 16 X 16 Fuel

We have reviewed your letter of December 20, 1982 to the NRC's Region IV Office, on the above subject in which you state that your fuel vendor has decided that the approved licensing method (CENPD-198) used for calculating WSES-3 fuel assembly shoulder gap spacing reduction may be inadequate. Your letter stated that you plan vendor modifications to WSES-3 fuel assemblies prior to shipment.

LP&L should amend the WSES-3 FSAR to reflect the proposed fuel assembly modification and the analytical basis by which the additional dimensional clearance that is needed was determined.

Since CE has not yet determined the relative importance of the variables involved, we are unable to generically resolve the adequacy of designed gap spacing for your 16 x 16 fuel assembly design. A resolution of this concern satisfactory to the staff will be required prior to second cycle of power operation.

If LP&L should desire a meeting with the NRC to discuss technical details or scheduling, please contact the NRC licensing project manager, Jim Wilson at 301/492-7702.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
 Thomas M. Novak

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
 for Licensing
 Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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OFFICE	DL:LB#3 JWilson/ph	DL:AD/L GWKnighton	DL:AD/L TMNovak	CEB CBerlinger		
SURNAME	JWilson/ph	GWKnighton	TMNovak	CBerlinger		
DATE	2/7/83	2/7/83	2/15/83	2/10/83		

WATERFORD

Mr. L. V. Maurin
Vice President - Nuclear Operations
Louisiana Power & Light Company
142 Delaronde Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70174

cc: W. Malcolm Stevenson, Esq.
Monroe & Lemann
1423 Whitney Building
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Regional Administrator-Region IV
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76012

Mr. E. Blake
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
1800 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Gary L. Groesch
2257 Bayou Road
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

Mr. F. J. Drummond
Project Manager - Nuclear
Louisiana Power & Light Company
142 Delaronde Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70174

Mr. D. B. Lester
Production Engineer
Louisiana Power & Light Company
142 Delaronde Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70174

Luke Fontana, Esq.
824 Esplanade Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70116

Stephen M. Irving, Esq.
535 North 6th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Resident Inspector/Waterford NPS
P. O. Box 822
Killona, Louisiana 70066

Dr. D. C. Gibbs
Middle South Service, Inc.
P. O. Box 61000
New Orleans, Louisiana 70161