

Official

May 27, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-325 and 50-324
License Nos. DPR-71 and DPR-62

Carolina Power and Light Company
ATTN: Mr. R. A. Watson
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation
P. O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-325/92-12 AND 50-324/92-12

This special inspection conducted by A. F. Gibson of this office over the period of February 17 - May 1, 1992, involved an appraisal of operations at your Brunswick facility. The results of this appraisal were discussed with you and members of your staff during a management meeting at the Brunswick site, on May 15, 1992. A list of attendees and a copy of our slide presentation are provided in Appendix B and C, respectively of the enclosed inspection report.

The five special inspections and the licensed operator requalification examinations identified in Appendix A of the enclosed inspection report were conducted to ascertain the level of Brunswick's performance and to determine the cause of identified deficiencies. Those areas appraised included maintenance, operations, radiological controls, emergency preparedness, security, and corrective actions.

Although the appraisal revealed some noticeable improvements at Brunswick since implementing the Integrated Action Plan, these improvements were overshadowed by the number of continuing equipment failures and personnel errors. The apparent root causes of these continuing performance problems were identified to be: (1) management's failure to set high standards for the material condition of the plant; (2) a failure of management to provide the leadership and support needed for improvement; and (3) a lack of critical self-assessment, which has resulted in the failure to recognize problems and implement effective corrective action.

We are deeply concerned over the identified root causes of the continuing performance problems at Brunswick, for they are similar to those identified by the NRC over the past ten years. It is significant that all of the root causes are directly related to the inability of senior management to cause positive, lasting improvements at Brunswick. Accordingly, you are required to provide a written response within 30 days of the date of this letter, addressing your corrective actions to eliminate these impediments to performance improvement. After reviewing your response (including your proposed corrective actions) and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further action is necessary with regard to this matter.

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The response directed by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Action of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

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Stewart D. Ebnerer
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
NRC Special Inspection Report
(with Appendixes A, B and C)

cc w/encl:
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(cc w/encl cont'd - See page 2)

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*FOR PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE SEE ATTACHED COPY

RII:DRP

RII:DRS

*RCarroll
05/ /92

*AGibson
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