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December 24, 1984

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Administrative Judges:

Christine N. Kohl, Chairman  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

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Dr. W. Reed Johnson,  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Appeal Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Howard A. Wilber  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Appeal Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

SERVED JAN 4 1985

In the Matter of

LOUISIANA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Docket No. 50-382 OI

(Waterford Steam Electric Station,  
Unit 3)

Dear Administrative Judges:

We appreciate the opportunity to assist the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board in this matter and trust this letter provides a sufficient response to your communication of December 19, 1984. The Office of Investigation stands ready to provide the Appeal Board in an ex parte, in camera session any information developed by OI relevant and material to the Board's inquiry. As there are several ongoing OI investigations being conducted regarding the Waterford project, there is a considerable amount of preliminary information already developed. There is also a substantial amount of investigative effort to be accomplished before the OI investigations are concluded.

At this point, there is no information which might be disclosed to the parties under protective order. Information which even arguably at this juncture may appear appropriate for such disclosure may, as an investigation progresses, take on a new or different meaning thus negating the appropriate basis for its present disclosure.

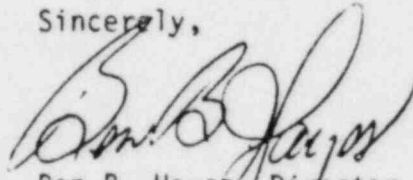
Premature disclosure to parties, even under protective order, provides at least the potential for discovery of the lines of investigation, the opportunity for the tailoring of testimony, and ultimately a debasing of the integrity of the investigative process. Indeed, the licensing process is best served by a complete record, yet the record can never be complete if the premature release of information thwarts the further collection of that very information.

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In OI's view, a prophylactic approach is the most reasoned and dictates that OI will orally provide the Board any information it deems relevant and material. Upon conclusion of an investigation OI will provide the Board a copy of its report of investigation less any deletions made for privacy or confidentiality purposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben B. Hayes".

Ben B. Hayes, Director  
Office of Investigations

cc: S.Chilk, SECY  
S.Aloot, OGC