May 23, 1985

Docket Nos. 50-325/324

Mr. E. E. Utley
Executive Vice President
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 1551
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Dear Mr. Utley:

SUBJECT: NUREG-0737, ITEM II.F.2,
INADEQUATE CORE COOLING INSTRUMENTATION

Re: Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2

On October 26, 1984, the NRC staff sent Generic Letter (GL) No. 84-23 (Reactor Vessel Water Level Instrumentation in BWRs) to Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) and other BWR licensees. This generic letter outlined the importance of reactor vessel water level instrumentation in BWRs. The staff concluded that permanent physical improvements should be made on a deliberate schedule to reduce the burden on the operator. Two improvement categories were proposed that, if implemented, would result in increased assurance that the level instrumentation will provide the inadequate core cooling instrumentation required by NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2. Licensees were asked to submit descriptions of plans to implement these improvements and a proposed schedule.

By letter dated December 10, 1984, you responded to GL 84-23 and indicated that in respect to the first improvement category which suggested modifications to reduce level indication error caused by high drywell temperature, CP&L is currently pursuing engineering assistance in evaluating potential design modifications such as reference leg cooling and reduction of vertical drops in the drywell. Due to the engineering effort necessary to evaluate potential solutions to the problem of high drywell temperature, an implementation plan and schedule could not be provided within the 30 days requested by the generic letter. CP&L anticipated that the engineering evaluation would be completed by October 1985 with submittal of planned improvements by December 31, 1985. Any modifications resulting from the engineering evaluation would be incorporated into the five-year program being developed for Brunswick. We find this acceptable.

Your letter also addressed the second improvement category: replacement of mechanical level indication equipment with analog level transmitters. Your letter indicated that an analog trip system has already been installed at Brunswick and that reactor water level indication is included in this system. We find that the above action already taken at the Brunswick facilities adequately addresses the second improvement category and, therefore, we find no further modifications are necessary at this time.

This completes our review of NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2 for the Brunswick facilities.

Sincerely,

Origianl signed by/

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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Mr. E. E. Utley
Carolina Power & Light Company
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant; Units 1 and 2

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