

October 8, 1998

EA 98-146  
EA 98-474

Carolina Power and Light Company  
ATTN: Mr. J. S. Keenan  
Vice President  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
P. O. Box 10429  
Southport, NC 28461

Dear Mr. Keenan:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-325/98-05 AND 50-324/98-05

Thank you for your response of July 1, 1998, to our Notice of Violation issued on June 1, 1998, concerning activities conducted at your facility. We have examined your response and found that it meets the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201.

In your response, you admitted Violations A, B, and C, and denied Violations D and E. You indicated that you disagreed with the regulatory interpretation of facts surrounding the modification of fire doors in the plant between September 1996 and January 1998. You also stated that the modifications to the fire doors in question did not adversely affect the ability of the plant to achieve and maintain safe shutdown in the event of a fire and that these modifications were not subject to any reporting criteria.

Regarding Violation C, you did not specifically indicate the date that your fire protection improvement plan will be completed. However, based on discussions of this plan during the meeting between NRC and licensee management on September 17, 1998, no further response to Violation C is required. We will monitor the progress of your actions in this area during future inspections.

With regard to Violation D, after review of your response and fire test results, we agree with your position that the violation cited did not constitute a violation of License Condition 2.B.(6). Therefore, we withdraw the violation. However, we are concerned that modifications were made to the fire doors that had the potential to adversely affect your ability to achieve and maintain safe shutdown in the event of a fire without adequate testing or engineering evaluation. Testing conducted in April 1998, some 19 months after the modifications commenced, confirmed that the fire doors would have functioned as a three-hour fire barrier. In your response you acknowledged the failure to properly implement the plant design control program regarding the modifications made to the fire doors. Therefore, after reconsidering the facts of this issue, we find that a violation of 10 CFR 50.59, Changes, Tests, and Experiments, occurred as a result of your initial failure to perform a written evaluation of the modifications made to the fire doors to assure that the doors maintained satisfactory fire ratings as committed to in Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) Section 9.5.1.4.3.1-b, Fire Doors. This

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non-repetitive, licensee-identified and corrected violation is being treated as a non-cited violation, consistent with Section VII.B.1 of the NRC enforcement policy. Therefore, no additional response is required.

Based on NRC's conclusion that the fire doors remained functional as three-hour fire barriers, this condition was not outside the design basis, and as such, was not reportable. Violation E is therefore withdrawn.

We will examine the implementation of your actions to correct Violations A, B, C during future inspections.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by J. R. Johnson)

Luis A. Reyes  
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos.: 50-325, 50-324  
License Nos.: DPR-71, DPR-62

cc: (See page 3)

cc: Director  
Site Operations  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
P. O. Box 10429  
Southport, NC 28461

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Brunswick County Board of  
Commissioners  
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Bolivia, NC 28422

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Emergency Management Coordinator  
New Hanover County Department of  
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Wilmington, NC 28402

William H. Crowe, Mayor  
City of Southport  
201 E. Moore Street  
Southport, NC 28461

Distribution: (See page 4)

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- PUBLIC

NRC Resident Inspector  
 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 8470 River Road, SE  
 Southport, NC 28461

*OE comments  
 per B. Westrich  
 10/6/98*

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DATE	10/5/98	10/7/98	10/5/98	10/5/98	10/6/98	10/5/98	10/8/98
COPY?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 8470 River Road, SE  
 Southport, NC 28461

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DATE	10/	7/98	10/	7/98	10/	7/98	10/	7/98	10/	7/98	10/	7/98
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