

Docket No. 50-382

DEC 2 1988

Mr. J. M. Cain  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer  
Louisiana Power & Light Company  
317 Baronne Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

Dear Mr. Cain:

SUBJECT: LOSS OF DECAY HEAT REMOVAL

We have just issued Generic Letter 88-17 which addresses loss of decay heat removal (DHR) during nonpower operation.

This letter was issued because of the potential serious consequence of loss of shutdown cooling concurrent with significant core decay heat. Further, it is our belief that the industry as a whole has not aggressively responded to resolve the concern following its identification in our earlier Generic Letter 87-12. In particular, the industry's response to the Generic Letter 87-12 was deficient in the areas of (1) prevention of accident initiation, (2) mitigation of accidents before they potentially progress to core damage, and (3) control of radioactive material if a core damage accident should occur. Generic Letter 88-17 prescribes expeditious actions which should immediately ease the concern; and parallel, but longer term, programmed enhancements which effectively address the root cause of the problems and permit greater flexibility in operation.

The loss of level indication and initiation of pump cavitation on two occasions at Waterford 3 on May 12, 1988 continues to be of concern to us. Your corrective actions following the 1986 event at Waterford and the implementation of your responses to Generic Letter 87-12 have not been sufficiently effective to prevent the May 12th occurrences. We expect that your response to Generic Letter 88-17 be prompt and your proposed actions to be expeditiously implemented. We also expect your response to be comprehensive and of sufficient detail to permit an independent evaluation of your proposed actions for resolving this issue in an acceptable manner.

We consider this issue to be of high priority and request that you assure that your organization addresses it accordingly.

Sincerely,  
Original signed by  
Thomas E. Murley  
Thomas E. Murley, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Docket File NRC PDR Local PDR PD4 Reading T. Murley J. Sneizek  
D. Crutchfield G. Holahan L. Rubenstein J. Calvo F. Noonan D. Wigginton  
OGC-Rockville E. Jordan B. Grimes ACRS (10) PD4 Plant File

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F. Noonan DWigginton: kb J. Calvo L. Rubenstein G. Holahan D. Crutchfield  
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J. Sneizek T. Murley  
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Sincerely,  
Original signed by  
Thomas E. Murley

Thomas E. Murley, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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OGC-Rockville	E. Jordan	B. Grimes	ACRS (10)	PD4 Plant File	

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 AD: DRSP  
 GHolahan  
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*Amc*  
 (AYAD) DCrutchfield  
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 DDORR  
 JSneizek  
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 DDORR  
 TMurley  
 12/1/88

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas E. Murley".

Thomas E. Murley, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. J. M. Cain  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Waterford 3

cc:  
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