

December 8, 1997

EA-519
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Carolina Power and Light Company
ATTN: Mr. C. S. Hinnant
Vice President
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
P. O. Box 10429
Southport, NC 28461

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-325/97-12, 50-324/97-12
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Hinnant:

On November 8, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Brunswick reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

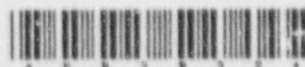
During the six weeks covered by this inspection period, our inspectors found that your staff generally took a safety conscious approach to the activities conducted at the Brunswick plant. However, five violations were identified. We are concerned regarding the failure of your engineering staff to properly implement your corrective action program and resolve the environmental qualification (EQ) program deficiencies identified in NRC Inspection Report numbers 50-325(324)/96-14. The third and fourth violations regarding failure to prepare the justification for continued operation and to properly document operability determinations indicate a lack of understanding of your EQ staff on the necessity of following procedure requirements.

During a management meeting held on November 14, 1997, you acknowledged that your corrective actions for previous escalated enforcement in this area were not fully effective, and described additional efforts to resolve these issues. You stated that your broad corrective actions would be completed by April 30, 1998.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In addition, an apparent violation with two examples, was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The first example was for failure to

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promptly take action once Unit 1 drywell temperatures exceeded an existing analysis when a drywell cooler fan failed. The second example was for failure to promptly take action to correct a design deficiency where the pressure suppression design function of primary containment could be bypassed under certain operating conditions. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

An open pre-decisional enforcement conference to discuss the first apparent violation has been scheduled for December 19, 1997. This conference will be open to public observation in accordance with Section V of the Enforcement Policy. The decision to hold a pre-decisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violations sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address why no action was taken to assess the impact of high drywell temperatures when the cooler fan failed on June 6, 1997, until seven out of ten snubbers on the reactor vessel head vent line were declared inoperable in September 1997. Also, upon twice reviewing information in April and May 1997 concerning the drywell to torus bypass, no action was taken until questions were asked by the NRC Resident Inspector. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violations, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violations are required at this time.

In addition, a second apparent violation was identified and was considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The apparent violation involved the failure to meet 10 CFR 50.59 requirements for an unreviewed safety question related to conducting certain spent fuel shipping cask handling activities that were outside design and licensing bases of the plant. This issue is discussed in detail in Section E8.1 of the enclosed report. This apparent violation will be addressed in a separate correspondence.

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

Sincerely,

(Original signed by J. Johnson)

Jon R. Johnson, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encls:
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CP&L

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J. Coley, RII
R. Baldwin, RII
J. Lenahan, RII
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PUBLIC

NRC Resident Inspector
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B. Summers (2) (OE: EA File)
J. Lieberman, OE

* see previous.

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

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COPY2	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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