

June 15, 1998

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 EXAMINATION REPORT NOS. 50-325/98-300 AND 50-324/98-300

Dear Mr. Hinnant:

On May 8-15, 1998, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered examinations to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant Units 1 and 2. At the conclusion of the examination, the examiners discussed the examination questions and preliminary findings with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. A Simulation Facility Report is included in this report as Enclosure 2. A copy of the written examination questions and answer key, as noted in Enclosure 3, is available from your training staff.

Six senior reactor operator (SRO) and four reactor operator (RO) candidates were tested by the NRC. All passed the examination; however, one candidate was identified as having some performance weaknesses. The individual examination reports should be reviewed to determine if adjustments to the training program, as well as individual remediation, are needed.

Although to the last three licensing examinations administered at your site were excellent, the quality and level of difficulty of this examination was only acceptable and not at the previous high standard. Test development and administration problems were encountered, which required considerable effort by both of our staffs to bring the examination to an acceptable level in time to administer it on schedule. Of most concern was the direct repeat of six written test questions from the RO audit test onto the RO licensing test contrary to examination development guidelines. A similar error (four repeat questions) occurred on the SRO written licensing test. The NRC was not aware of this fact until we asked for a copy of the audit examination for review. It is our expectation that the weaknesses documented in the enclosed report will be evaluated and corrective action taken to preclude similar problems during the next license examination. You are not required to respond to this letter.

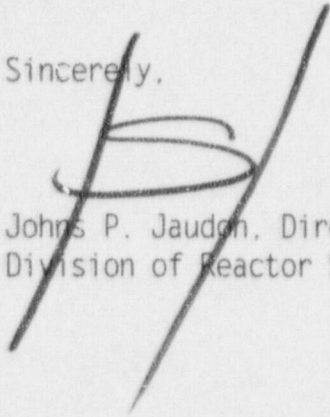
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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 562-4600.

Sincerely,



John P. Jaudon, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosures:

1. Report Details
2. Simulation Facility Report
3. Written Examination and Answer Keys (SRO & RO)  
(Document Control Desk Only)

cc w/encls:

Director  
Site Operations  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
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Southport, NC 28461

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(cc w/encls cont'd - See page 2)

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Jerry W. Jones, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of  
Commissioners  
P. O. Box 249  
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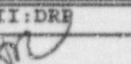

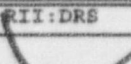
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NRC Resident Inspector  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Southport, NC 28461

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