UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 8, 1999

Mr. John S. Keenan, Vice President
Carolina Power & Light Company
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

SUBJECT: BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - SITE-SPECIFIC WORKSHEETS FOR USE IN THE NRC'S SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION PROCESS

Dear Mr. Keenan:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with one of the key implementation tools to be used by the NRC in the revised reactor oversight process, which is currently expected to be implemented at Brunswick in April 2000. Included in the enclosed Risk-Informed Inspection Notebook are the Significance Determination Process (SDP) worksheets that inspectors will be using to risk characterize inspection findings. The SDP is discussed in more detail below.

On January 8, 1999, the NRC staff described to the Commission plans and recommendations to improve the reactor oversight process. These recommendations were contained in SECY-99-007, "RECOMMENDATION FOR REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS." This document is available on the NRC's Web Site at <www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html>. The new process, developed with stakeholder involvement, is designed around a risk-informed framework, which is intended to focus both the NRC's and each licensee's attention and resources on those issues of more risk significance.

The performance assessment portion of the new process involves the use of both licensee-submitted performance indicator data and inspection findings that have been appropriately categorized based on their risk significance. In order to properly categorize an inspection finding, the NRC has developed the SDP. This process was described to the Commission in SECY-99-007A, "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS (FOLLOW-UP TO SECY-99-007)," dated March 22, 1999, and is also available on the NRC Web Site.

The SDP for power operations involves evaluating an inspection finding's impact on the plant's capability to: limit the frequency of initiating events; ensure the availability, reliability, and capability of mitigating systems; and to ensure the integrity of the fuel cladding, reactor coolant system, and containment barriers. The SDP involves the use of three tables. Table 1 is the estimated likelihood for initiating event occurrence during the degraded period. Table 2 describes how the significance is determined based on remaining mitigation system capabilities and Table 3 provides the bases for the failure probabilities associated with the remaining mitigation equipment and strategies.

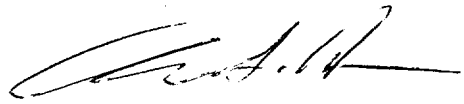
PDR ADOCK

DF01

As a result of the recently concluded Pilot Plant review effort, the NRC has determined that site-specific risk data are needed in order to provide a repeatable determination of the significance of an issue. Therefore, the NRC has contracted with Brookhaven National Laboratory to develop site-specific worksheets to be used in the SDP review. These enclosed worksheets were developed based on your Individual Plant Examination (IPE) submittal that was requested by Generic Letter 88-20. The NRC plans to use this site-specific information in evaluating the significance of issues identified at your facility when the revised reactor oversight process is implemented industry-wide. It is recognized that the IPE utilized during this effort may not contain current information. Therefore, the NRC or its contractor will conduct a site visit in the near future to discuss with your staff any changes that may be appropriate. We are not requesting written comments on the NRC's work product.

The NRC will coordinate its efforts through your licensing or risk organizations as appropriate. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1390.

Sincerely,



Allen G. Hansen, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-325 and 50-324

Enclosure: Risk-Informed Inspection Notebook

cc: See next page

Mr. J. S. Keenan
Carolina Power & Light Company

Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Units 1 and 2

cc:

Mr. William D. Johnson
Vice President and Corporate Secretary
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 1551
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. Jerry W. Jones, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners
Post Office Box 249
Bolivia, North Carolina 28422

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
8470 River Road
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Mr. John H. O'Neill, Jr.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Mr. Mel Fry, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
N.C. Department of Environment
and Natural Resources
3825 Barrett Dr.
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721

Mr. J. J. Lyash
Plant Manager
Carolina Power & Light Company
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Public Service Commission
State of South Carolina
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Ms. Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
State of North Carolina
Post Office Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff - NCUC
Post Office Box 29520
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0520

Director
Site Operations
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Mr. William H. Crowe, Mayor
City of Southport
201 East Moore Street
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Mr. Dan E. Summers
Emergency Management Coordinator
New Hanover County Department of
Emergency Management
Post Office Box 1525
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402

Mr. Terry C. Morton
Manager
Performance Evaluation and
Regulatory Affairs CPB 7
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 1551
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-1551

Mr. K. R. Jury
Manager - Regulatory Affairs
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, NC 28461-0429

cc:

Mr. Steve Floyd
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Dr. David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1616 P Street NW
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036-1495