

**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHEARON HARRIS PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN ALL FOUR
AREAS OF NRC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The Shearon Harris nuclear power plant received performance ratings of "superior" in plant operations, maintenance, engineering and plant support in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's latest systematic assessment of licensee performance (SALP) of the facility.

The SALP report was sent April 22 to Carolina Power & Light Company, which operates the facility southwest of Raleigh near New Hill, North Carolina. It evaluates the plant's performance from April 3, 1994, through March 16 of this year.

NRC and Carolina Power & Light Company officials will discuss the report during a meeting set for 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 3, at the Harris Energy & Environmental Center near the plant. The meeting will be open for public observation. NRC officials will be available after the meeting to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

NRC systematic assessment reports rate licensees in four functional areas — plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support — and assign ratings of Category 1, 2 or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas was superior, good or adequate. The report on Shearon Harris gives the plant a Category 1 rating in plant operations, maintenance, engineering and plant support, indicating "superior" performance in all four areas. In the previous SALP report in 1994, the plant also received 1's in all four areas.

In his cover letter to the report, NRC Regional Administrator Stewart Ebnetter said "this continued high level of safety performance is due, in part, to strong management involvement and effective teamwork." He also noted that there were improvements in several areas identified as challenges in the previous SALP period.

In the letter, Ebnetter pointed to improvements in scheduling of maintenance activities but said procedures for maintenance and surveillance testing could be improved.

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EDITORS: A copy of the full SALP report is available from this office.