

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/04/01 EDO CONTROL: G20010110  
DOC DT: 03/21/01  
FINAL REPLY:

John F. Cordes, OCAA

TO:

Craig, OEDO

FOR SIGNATURE OF : \*\* GRN \*\* CRC NO:

DESC: ROUTING:

Request for Assistance in Adjudicatory Matter:  
Carolina Power & Light Company (Shearon Harris  
Nuclear Power Plant)

Travers  
Paperiello  
Kane  
Norry  
Reiter  
Craig  
Burns/Cyr  
Anderson, OEDO

DATE: 03/21/01

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:  
NRR Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Contact J. Cordes, OCAA with names of possible  
staff who could assist. Notify J. Craig, OEDO by  
e-mail of results.

Template: EDO-001

E-RIDS: EDO-01



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

OFFICE OF COMMISSION  
APPELLATE ADJUDICATION

March 21, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: John W. Craig  
Assistant for Operations  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John F. Cordes, Director *John F. Cordes*  
Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication

SUBJECT: Request for assistance in adjudicatory matter: Carolina Power &  
Light Company (Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant)

I am requesting the assistance of the NRC staff in reviewing a ruling of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in a licensing proceeding for a spent fuel pool expansion.

The questions on appeal involve the following issues:

1. Whether a particular seven-step severe accident scenario, beginning with a degraded core accident and containment failure and culminating with an exothermic oxidation reaction in the spent fuel pools, is remote and speculative so that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary
2. The overall probability of any severe spent fuel pool accident
3. Quality assurance issues regarding the completion of a spent fuel pool cooling system that was begun in the early 1980's and then abandoned
4. Whether a construction permit was required in order to use the piping and equipment that was abandoned in the 1980's

The applicant performed a probabilistic risk assessment and the Staff performed an analysis which yielded estimates of the probability of the seven-step accident scenario. The Intervenor's expert primarily performed scoping calculations to arrive at a probability estimate. OCAA needs technical assistance in understanding whether the accident sequence can be deemed remote and speculative on the information in the record or whether additional information will need to be obtained at a full evidentiary hearing. OCAA needs technical assistance with a similar question—whether it is reasonable to decide on the current adjudicatory record without further hearing—regarding the quality assurance and construction permit issues. I anticipate that this assistance will occupy no more than a few days of the staff person's time.

The advisor must not have participated in the review of this application. The advisor may not discuss or clear his or her review with other technical staff without authorization from OCAA.

Please call me at 415-1600 if you have any questions.