



Carolina Power & Light Company  
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Raleigh NC 27602

C.S. Hinnant  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer

November 2, 1998

Mr. Jim Warren, Executive Director  
North Carolina Waste Awareness and Reduction Network  
P.O. Box 6015  
Durham, NC 27715-1951

Dear Mr. Warren:

Thank you for your interest in our Harris Nuclear Plant. I am responding to your letter of October 20 on behalf of Bill Cavanaugh, and as CP&L's chief nuclear officer.

Carolina Power & Light places the highest priority on ensuring the safety of the general public in our company operations, including the management of our nuclear generation facilities. The workers at the Harris Plant and the officers of this company are residents of the Triangle, and the safety of our families, friends and neighbors is paramount in our nuclear planning. Consequently, our plans to store spent fuel on site at the plant were developed with the primary goal of providing the safest storage possible. Spent nuclear fuel has been stored safely throughout the nuclear industry for more than 30 years, and at the Harris Plant for more than 10 years.

Let me take a moment to specifically address your belief that CP&L has operated in secrecy in pursuing the expansion of the spent fuel storage capability at the Harris Plant. Placing the C and D storage pools into service to store fuel is not a new concept. These pools were designed and constructed as part of the original plant design, and placing them into service at the appropriate time has always been a part of our operations plan for the plant. Open and honest dialogue with area leaders and the community have characterized our general approach to operation of the Harris Plant and specifically to the storage of spent fuel.

We have had numerous conversations with public officials about spent fuel storage and have held two preliminary technical meetings with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which were publicly noticed and open to public participation. We will continue to keep local county commissioners and other local officials informed of our operational plans at Harris.

I would also like to underscore that the current process that exists for reviewing and approving license amendment requests, as promulgated in the Code of Federal Regulations, includes adequate provisions to ensure public awareness and an opportunity for you and other members of the public to identify and resolve any technical concerns or issues that you may have.

Bjv

Mr. Jim Warren

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We appreciate your recognition that a national disposal site is the best alternative. However, because no permanent, federally approved site has yet been built, we have developed an interim spent fuel plan that we believe is the safest option available.

Thank you again for your concern and interest. CP&L takes our responsibility to serve very seriously, and our company remains committed to the successful and safe operation of electric generating facilities that serve the needs of the citizens of this region and throughout our state.

Sincerely,

*CSHinnant*

CSH/kmc

c: William Cavanaugh III  
Shirley A. Jackson, Ph.D.  
William S. Orser