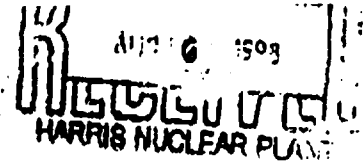


**UNION OF  
CONCERNED  
SCIENTISTS**

July 29, 1998

Mr. J. W. Donahue  
Director of Site Operations  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
Harris Nuclear Plant  
PO Box 165  
New Hill, NC 27562

— EADS

**SUBJECT: SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SPENT FUEL POOLS C & D  
QUESTIONS**

Dear Mr. Donahue:

Thank you for your letter of July 29, 1998 regarding some questions that I had concerning CP&L's plans to activate spent fuel pools C&D at the Harris Nuclear Plant. Here are my questions:

1. During the presentation to the NRC staff on July 16, 1998, CP&L stated that the pool D is filled with water, but that this water is "filthy" and has long been out of specification on its water chemistry. The pool has a welded stainless steel liner. Stainless steel is resistant, but not invulnerable, to corrosion. Has the long period of time with poor water chemistry degraded the liner or its welds on pool D?
2. Does Harris have a single-failure proof crane for moving empty racks and shipping casks into/out of the pools?
3. If Harris does not have a single-failure proof crane, what would be the consequences if a rack or shipping cask were dropped? [The Oyster Creek and FitzPatrick licensees have recently reported the results from safety evaluations for comparable dropped loads at their facilities which indicated that reactor operation would be adversely affected by relay chatter from the vibrations.]
4. During the presentation to the NRC staff on July 16, 1998, CP&L proposed to stagger the installation of the racks in pools C and D. If this plan is followed, CP&L will install empty racks into pools at a time when they contain racks loaded with irradiated fuel assemblies. While CP&L might be able to reduce the chances of dropping an empty cask into the pool and onto a partially filled rack, they could totally eliminate that risk (and the risk of damaging the pool liner) if all the racks were installed prior to loading any irradiated fuel in the pools. Why is CP&L proposing to take the riskier option?

23  
B100A

August 4, 1998

Page 2 of 2

I would appreciate the answers to these questions either by an informal discussion with appropriate CP&L staff, by a written response, or by inclusion/coverage in your upcoming licensing submittal to the NRC.

Sincerely,



David A. Lochbaum  
Nuclear Safety Engineer

cc: Mr. Scott C. Flanders  
NRC Project Manager

STOPPED